MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 FEBRUARY 1983

Palestine National Council Session

Addressing a news conference in Algiers, Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Khalid al-Fahum announced that the PNC "insists" on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital, AFP reported. He declared that the PLO has neither authorized nor delegated any Arab leader to speak on its behalf or on behalf of the Palestinian people. According to Algiers radio, Al-Fahum affirmed that the Palestinian revolution does not seek to destroy anyone or throw anyone into the sea. He emphasized that the existence of "differences of opinion" is not division but an "element of strength," the radio noted. Meanwhile, Ahmad Jabril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, disclosed that his faction may withdraw from the PLO if no "reservations" are adopted on the Fes resolutions, such as a categorical rejection of the Reagan plan, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Although Jibril stressed that there is agreement among other factions to withdraw from the PLO, Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, and As-Sa'iqah Secretary 'Isim al-Qadi refused to discuss the subject, the radio added. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, reasserted his faction's complete adherence to the PLO as a broad framework for Palestinian action but said that if the U.S. option "crystallizes," the issue of withdrawal "will become quite possible." Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said "there will be no withdrawals," according to the radio.

Israel

The Knesset defeated three no-confidence motions against Prime Minister Menahem Begin's government by a 64-56 vote, IDF Radio announced. Later the Knesset adopted a motion condemning the recent murder of a Peace Now demonstrator and denouncing any attempt to impair freedom of speech, according to Jerusalem radio.

Lebanon

Two IDF soldiers were killed and two were injured in a 16 February ambush near 'Ayn Zhalta in the eastern Ash-Shuf region, Jerusalem radio reported citing the IDF spokesman. In an earlier incident IDF soldiers killed three "terrorists" at a roadblock in East Beirut, IDF Radio said. The radio also noted that the IDF will hold contacts with Lebanese Army representatives to define IDF traffic movement in East Beirut following an incident in which an IDF force broke through a Lebanese Army roadblock in the area. Beirut radio confirmed that Lebanese-Israeli contacts are underway to eliminate problems arising from the IDF's use of a road in the Al-Jumhur area of East Beirut.

Commenting on the Lebanese Army's latest deployment at a press conference reported by Beirut radio, Foreign Minister Elie Salim stressed that only the army and the multinational force are permittted in greater Beirut and that no armed militia or foreign forces will be permitted there. Salim disclosed that the Israelis had objected to the Lebanese Government's plan to deploy the Army in East Beirut and he also denied reports that Lebanon and Israel have reached agreement over the future of Major Sa'd Haddad. Jerusalem radio said the Lebanese Government is "reportedly" willing to reintegrate Haddad and his men into the Lebanese Army. The radio noted that Haddad's men continued to extend their area of control by entering another southern village.

Phalangist Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram meanwhile told a press conference that the Lebanese forces are the "natural allies" of the Lebanese Army whose deployment in East Beirut disproves illusions and accusations that the forces are seeking to create a state within a state. In his remarks, which were broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, he reaffirmed that the Lebanese Forces will "continue their duty" as long as foreign armies are occupying Lebanese territory and until all Lebanese territory comes under Lebanese sovereignty. While the Lebanese Forces reject the "accusations" of Israel's commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre, they are "at the disposal" of any Lebanese commission, Afram added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi units repulsed an Iranian attack on an Iraqi brigade during a fierce battle in Ash-Shib area, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. According to the communique, the Iranian force suffered heavy losses in men and equipment. However, Tehran radio asserted that Iranian forces foiled Iraq's counterattack and killed 300 Iraqis.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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MATERIALS ON PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

Afghan, Egyptian, Cuban Delegates

LD161344 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] For the third day in a row, the work of the 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] at the Palais des Nations continues under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Fahum. This session is of particular importance coming as it does at a time when the Arab world and the international situation are going through great complications after the battle of Beirut. This battle proved the fallacy of the power of Israel and the illusions of its lightning war, as was stressed by most chief delegates invited to attend this session.

This morning's meeting was addressed by several of the delegates. The first to speak was the representative of Afghanistan. He saluted the Palestinian revolution and denounced the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He recalled the dangers of Zionism, considered to be the instrument used by imperialism to strike at the liberation movements, to eliminate the aspirations of the Arab masses, and restrict the growth of the struggle of the progressive forces. He underlined Afghanistan's position toward the Palestinian struggle and called on all peace-loving forces to stand on the side of the Palestinian people, who are waging a bitter struggle to establish their existence, retrieve their usurped rights, gain self-determination, and set up their own independent state in the land of Palestine.

After this address the representative of Sudan took to the podium to make his speech in which he reaffirmed his country's backing for the Palestinian revolution in its struggle against Israel. He also reaffirmed Sudan's position on this legitimate struggle and emphasized the need to extend further support to this struggle on all levels. He called for the mobilization of the Arab capabilities in the service of support for the Palestinian cause.

Afterward, Ibrahim Shukri, from the Egyptian opposition, spoke at length. He greeted the PNC and said: The people of Egypt are with you. They have rejected the Camp David accords. He stressed the size of the Egyptian delegation, which includes various sections of the opposition, and thus shows the real representation of the Egyptian people in the work of this important session. He said in particular:

The people of Egypt are with you in what you expect of them and in what you see as the right path to liberate Palestine. This has been stressed through the various positions taken by Egyptian people to back the Palestinian cause and reject the Camp David accords. He also recalled the various persecutions facing the revolutionary and progressive forces in Egypt due to their positions. He concluded his address by stressing the struggle of all the [word indistinct] forces in Egypt working for Egypt's return to its natural role in order to participate in the struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

After that the Cuban delegate spoke. He greeted the growing Palestinian struggle and reaffirmed Cuba's solidarity and that of the socialist community with the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Delegates continue to speak. This evening's session is expected set up committees to formulate the texts and resolutions that the PNC will adopt in this session.

Greek, Bulgarian, PDRY Speeches

LD162254 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpts] For his part the delegate of the Greek Socialist Party renewed his party's support for the PLO, noting that when Brother Yasir 'Arafat left as a hero from besieged Beirut he went directly to Greece. He said that the stance of the Greek Socialist Party toward the Palestinian issue is not new but it is part of the joint struggle against imperialist and Zionist hegemony. He lauded the heroism of the Palestinian fighters in Beirut despite the great military superiority of the Israeli enemy.

The Bulgarian delegate, who conveyed the greeting of the Bulgarian people to the representatives of the Palestinian people in this historic gathering in Algiers, said that Algeria plays an important role in the world against imperialism, colonialism, and racism. After affirming that his country stands against the aggressive Zionist acts which are supported by the United States, which is trying to shatter Arab ranks, he explained that Washington is searching for ways to impose its hegemony over the area in order to plunder its resources. The Bulgarian delegate said that Palestinian fighters who stood fast in Beirut proved that no force in the world can liquidate the Palestinian revolution.

Afterward, the chairman of the Arab-Canadian parliamentary committee and member of the Canadian Tory party took the rostrum. He saluted the struggle of the Palestinian people and its vanguard, the PLO, in its selfless battle to regain the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and independence.

After the end of Brother Faruq Qaddumi's political report of the PLO Executive Committee, work resumed with listening to speeches of the leaders of the delegations.

Leader of the PDRY delegation 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Ghani spoke. He affirmed the need to give all forms of support and backing to the Palestinian revolution in its armed struggle against the usurping Israeli enemy until it achieves victory. He also stressed the unchanging stand of the PDRY toward the Palestinian issue and its stand alongside it.

The delegates of PRC, Bangladesh, and the GDR made their speeches before the presentation of the political report. They affirmed the solidarity of their countries with the Palestinian issue.

Iranian Delegate's Address

LD162117 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] At approximately 1830 today the 16th session of the PNC resumed its meetings at the Palais des Nations in Algiers, the 3d day of work. The session continues to hear speeches from the invited delegations which have been delivering them since the morning, expressing their support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestine people and the just Palestine cause, which continues to enjoy the extreme support from all the delegations from all continents at this session taking place amid difficult times following the Beirut war. All the speakers expressed their support for the Palestine people, who are fighting a ferocious war against the Israeli entity, which has usurped the land of Palestine and established in it an entity founded on aggression, murder, and Arab annihilation.

The first speaker in the evening session was the chief Iranian delegate. He delivered a lengthy speech in which he called for the mobilization of all Islamic and Arab efforts and those of the peace-loving forces in support of the Palestine people's struggle for the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem and the establishment of the independent Palestine state.

He also praised the epic of Beirut and the joint Palestinian-national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli invasion. He said that the steadfastness and confrontation of the joint forces debunked the myth about unvanquished Israel. They proved by deeds the ability of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to face up to the challenge whenever they had the opportunity to reply to the Zionist blustering.

The chief Iranian delegate analyzed the strategy that Israel adopts in its wars, saying that it relies on blitzkreig, aggression, killing, flouting the will of the Palestinians and their wishes, and the annihilation of the Palestinians and the civilization they have created in their lands over the years. He called on all peace-loving forces to mobilize their capabilities to support the Palestinian people in their war against the Zionist entity for the liberation of their land and the establishment up of their state.

He was followed by the Ethiopian delegate who affirmed his country's support for the Palestine people. He denounced the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. He recalled the importance of the mobilization all efforts to check the imperialist-Zionist offensive in the Middle East.

He was followed by the representatives of Zambia and Mali. They expressed their countries' support for the legitimate and just struggle of the Palestine people.

The various delegates are still speaking as this report is being prepared. All are expressing support for the Palestine people's struggle and their just cause.

Algiers on Al-Fahum Remarks

LD170458 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The chairman of the board of the Palestinian National Fund yesterday evening [16 February] presented the financial report of the PLO to the PNC at its 16th session held at the Palais des Nations in Algiers. In it he noted that confronting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon had cost the fund enormous expenditures in view of the destruction and obliteration of the property of Palestinian citizens caused by this invasion.

He explained that these losses had been assessed at $350-400 million. He affirmed that the fund had discharged its duty in the best possible way by compensating those who suffered and by transferring its funds and documents to Damascus in record time for the sake of safeguarding the funds of the Palestinian revolution against Israeli looting.

Concerning the future, the report stated that the financial situation of the fund will face difficulties due to the scarcity of revenue and increasing expenditure as a result of the dispersion of Palestinian forces in the Arab states and their reorganizing and reequipping.

The report noted that not all Arab states fulfilled their commitments. Out of seven, only four paid their share into the fund. He added that during the war in Lebanon Algeria paid the cost of a consignment of weapons needed by the PLO.

The chairman of the board of the Palestinian National Fund said: We expect a financial siege from the Zionist enemy in order to weaken our ability to fight him. The drop in the prices of oil will have a negative effect on additional revenues of the PLO as a result of the shrinkage of the oil revenue of the Arab oil-producing states.

The report affirmed that under the circumstances there is no way other than to rely on one's own revenues which, despite the fact that they are generally small, constitute an important source of income.

The PNC resumed its 16th session yesterday evening in a public meeting in order to listen to the rest of the head delegates speeches who affirmed the stands of their countries toward the Palestinian issue which are manifested in the support and constant backing of the PLO and the solidarity of their peoples with and their support for the Palestinian issue.

The first to speak in the evening session was the Iranian delegate, who renewed the unchanging stand of his country toward the Palestinian revolution.

The delegate of Zambia affirmed his country's solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and denounced U.S. maneuvers in the Middle East and the African Continent and the unlimited U.S. support for the Zionist state and the racist regime in South Africa.

The delegate of Mali renewed his country's support for the Palestinian revolution under PLO leadership and strongly denounced the crimes committed by the Zionist enemy in Lebanon and the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

The Finnish delegate also announced these crimes and expressed the solidarity of her country with the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The Guinea delegate renewed the support and military solidarity of his country with the Palestinian revolution and lauded the heroism of the Palestinian fighters who gallantly stood up to the Israeli aggression in Lebanon. He expressed optimism in the future of the Palestinian state and said: We wish your council to hold its coming session in holy Jerusalem -- the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

In the meantime, Khalid al-Fahum, the PNC speaker, Wednesday afternoon held a press conference at the Aures Hotel which was attended by Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the PNC official spokesman, and by domestic and foreign journalists. During the press conference Mr al-Fahum touched upon the spirit of democracy which prevails over the work of the council despite the existence of differences of viewpoints on a number of issues -- a matter which is not regarded as rift or division but an element of strength, according to Mr al-Fahum.

Concerning the progress of the session, Mr al-Fahum noted the holding of night sessions by the political leadership as of tonight in order to arrive at agreement on the various issues raised.

About the Fes resolutions, Mr al-Fahum said that the council approves them because they are the minimum over which the Arabs might get together. He repeated the PLO's insistence not to authorize anyone, whoever he may be, to speak in its name.

The PNC speaker also said that the number of the members of the council who are Palestinian inhabitants living inside the occupied areas had risen from 122 to 180. They, however, were not able to attend the conference out of fear that the Zionist authorities might not allow them to return the occupied territories.

Concerning the agenda of the council for the remaining days of the meeting, Mr al-Fahum explained that the general discussion will continue for 2 days and the work of the committees will continue for 1 and 1/2 days, after which the council will study the resolutions and the results. The PLO Executive Committee, on its part, will submit its resignation so that a new committee can be elected.

Mr al-Fahum asked why the question is not put to Israel about its failure to recognize the Palestinian people and their existence and about the building of illegal Zionist settlements, noting that the United States had the ability to influence Israel to stop such settlements.

The PNC speaker reiterated the resolve and will of the Palestinian revolution to establish an independent Palestinian state over the soil of Palestine. The other choice is to surrender and this, he said, we reject; it cannot be accepted. This drives us to continue the struggle.

Mr al-Fahum noted the legality of the Palestinian people's demand that America and Britain recognize their rights, their identity, and their existence, recalling the difficulties and obstacles which are placed before a Palestinian when he travels through the countries of Europe and the United States because he is regarded as a stateless person. In particular he said: We do not want money from America; we are only demanding our right to live.

About the international situation in regard to the Palestinian issue, Mr al-Fahum said: The balance of forces is not in our favor at present, but the position of America in the days of George Washington and the steadfastness of Algeria in the days of the height of French colonialism and the struggle of the people of Vietnam are the best lessons for those who do not heed us.

Concerning the collective participation of the various international parliaments in the conference, Mr al-Fahum explained that this affirms the degree and extent of Palestinian political influence.

In the military field Mr al-Fahum affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will not abandon this option but will step up the armed struggle inside the occupied territories.

Concerning a question relating to ne recognition of Israel, Mr al-Fahum answered that recognition, as it is commonly known, is a right which sovereignty demands, and when our sovereignty is established over our Palestinian soil, whatever concerns this matter will be decided. The Palestinian revolution does not seek to destroy anyone or to throw anyone into the sea, he added. We extend our hand to all friendships and all democratic forces which reject colonialism and racism whatever their color.

About the Reagan plan, Mr al-Fahum said that it completely denies all rights of the Palestinian people which had been upheld by the UN General Assembly and the international community and added that the Fes plan is the minimum that is acceptable to the Palestinian revolution.

At the end of his statement the PNC speaker questioned the earnestness of the United States in the eyes of the Palestinians and all the Arabs. The PLO has not and will not authorize anyone to speak in its name. The Palestinian revolution is fighting for a just peace in the area.

AFP: Palestinian State Defined

NC161832 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, Feb 16 (AFP) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization wants an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital, Palestinian National Council (PNC) Chairman Khalid al-Fahum said here today. Mr al-Fahum told a press conference that this was the goal the PLO wanted to achieve. The state would cover 20 percent of the territory of Palestine as it was under British mandate, he said.

The PNC, the Palestinian parliament, has been meeting here since Monday. It was the first time a Palestinian leader has publicly proclaimed the territorial limits and details of an eventual Palestinian state.

The PNC chairman made the statement in reply to a question on how the PLO interpreted Article Seven of the Arab League Middle East peace plan adopted last September in Fes, Morocco. The article "recognizes the right to a peaceful existence of all regional countries," and has often been interpreted as tacit recognition of Israel by the PLO, despite opposition by the hard-line Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The Fes plan," Mr al-Fahum said, "is on a line with previous PNC resolutions and has been ratified by the PLO. Article Seven," he continued, "means a just peace (in the Middle East) and the achievement of the Palestinian people's national rights -- namely, the right to a state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital and the acceptance of all United Nations Security Council guarantees."

Earlier, Mr al-Fahum had announced the arrival here of a three-man U.S. Jewish delegation invited as observers, and due to address the PNC later today. Mr al-Fahum did not identify the members of the U.S. delegation.

On the Palestinian state, he said the PLO "wants to destroy no state, nor push anyone into the sea," but Palestinians too "do not want to be destroyed, nor forced into the desert."

The PLO Charter calls for the liberation of Palestine and the destruction of "Zionist establishments," but PNC resolutions since 1974 have accepted the principle of creating a state on any recuperated Palestinian territory. If Mr al-Fahum's statement eventually ends up in an official PNC text, it will constitute a spectacular step toward PLO recognition of Israel. But Mr al-Fahum implicitly rejected the possibility of recognizing the Menahem Begin government when he said that the PLO "will not recognize an expansionist and racist government whose leaders have been disowned."

Mr al-Fahum rejected any possibility of "combining" the Fes plan with that of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, because the latter "totally ignores the basic right of Palestinians as recognized by the United Nations -- the right to self-rule."

He also said no Arab state would be mandated to speak for the Palestinians, dispelling recent rumors that Jordan's King Husayn could be asked to do so.

Mr al-Fahum said the PNC plenary session would last for two more days to allow all delegations to address the parliament. Committees would then meet behind closed doors to study draft resolutions submitted so far.

A final plenary session would vote on the PLO program, he said.

Radio Monte Carlo Report

JN161853 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The PNC continues its meetings in Algiers. Yesterday's session was characterized by Faruq Qaddumi's strongly worded speech which took the shape of a political statement. Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, went so far as to criticize Yasir 'Arafat himself. Qaddumi also threatened some Arab countries that remained silent during the siege of Beirut. He spoke highly of the Soviet Union and the socialist states.

Despite all the differences in the viewpoints, Yasir 'Arafat is still trying to reach a result that may leave the door open for the proposed peace settlements, and particularly for Amman. Our correspondent in Algiers Nabil Darwish presents the latest details and developments on the issue:

[Begin Darwish recording] The atmosphere that prevailed today at the PNC conference following Faruq Qaddumi's political statement was optimistic, perhaps because it summarized all the opinions now being raised in the Palestinian arena. The drafting committee continued its initial draft of the final resolutions despite some reservations not yet made public. As we said yesterday, the details of the Reagan and Fes plans and the issues of Jordan and Egypt as well as with the Israeli democratic forces may cause some crises that may either be settled or lead to problems as serious as withdrawal [from the PLO]. Only Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, raised the issue of withdrawal in exclusive statements made to our radio. He said that the issue of withdrawal is possible if no reservations [thawabit] on the Fes resolutions are adopted. Jibril calls for reservations such as underlining abidance by the Palestinian National Charter, refusal to recognize Israel, and a categorical and firm rejection of the Reagan plan.

When we asked him whether others like the Popular Struggle Front [PSF], As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] would also withdraw from the PLO, Jibril stressed that there is an agreement among these organizations to withdraw. However, Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the PSF, and 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary of As-Sa'iqah, refused to talk about this subject at present.

The DFLP's Nayif Hawatimah was satisfied with giving a short optimistic answer. He said: No, there will be no withdrawals. The situation is good. The PFLP's secretary general, Dr George Habash, was relatively optimistic but said that if U.S. option crystallizes the issue of withdrawal will become quite possible. He added: I am not pessimistic. The atmosphere is good. The Palestinian arena withnessed some confusion following the siege of Beirut and, therefore, clear-cut political resolutions must be made in order to end this confusion.

Asked whether the rejectionist organizations would establish a framework other than the PLO if no agreement is reached in this regard, George Habash said: The experience of rejection we had in the past has a certain significance. This experience must not be repeated. Habash reasserted his front's complete adherence to the PLO as a broad framework for the Palestinian action.

Both Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], members of the Fatah Central Committee, confirmed the Fatah movement's optimism that the current PNC session will succeed. They also confirmed the achievements so far accomplished by the drafting committee.

On the perephery of the conference, Yasir 'Arafat and other ranking Palestinian leaders met with representatives of the Egyptian opposition movement attending the conference. Among the representatives were two former Egyptian foreign ministers, Murad Ghalib and Mahmud Riyad, as well as National Progressive Unionist Grouping leader Khalid Muhyi ad-Din; Mohammad Hasan az-Zayyat, who was a deputy prime minister during As-Sadat's reign; Labor Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukri; and several members of the former Revolution Council in Egypt.

The Palestinian leadership addressed the following question to the Egyptian figures: After what happened in Beirut, does the Egyptian nationalist movement, which opposed the late President Anwar as-Sadat, believe in the possibility of establishing relations between the regime in Egypt and the PLO? We can summarize the Egyptian figures' answer as follows:

1. Dealing with the Camp David issue is not a question of whether to end or not to end the Camp David agreements, particularly since Israel continues to violate these agreements.

2. The strategic imbalance resulting from Egypt's departure can be rectified only by the return of Egypt.

3. The gradual restoration of relations with Egypt will certainly tighten the noose around Camp David, particularly in light of the Fes summit resolutions.

4. It is important to spread a healthy atmosphere through dialogue and contacts.

5. The Egyptian figures said they expect an inevitable clash between Egypt and Israel sooner or later. Events such as the Tabah issue and the normalization of relations indicate this.

In brief, it is necessary to restore relations but the question remains: How? Nabil Darwish, Algiers. [end recording]

Qaddumi Criticizes Reagan Plan

LD161137 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 16 Feb (APS) -- Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, has made an appraisal of the Arab and international situation prior to and following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and of attempts to put an end to the Palestinian people and their cause. He also reviewed the situation inside the occupied territories and the prospects and future duties of the Palestinian revolution and its continuity.

This came in a comprehensive political report which Mr Qaddumi submitted last night on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee to the 16th session of the PNC. Mr Qaddumi reaffirmed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which was prepared and timed in Washington, was aimed at the destruction of the PLO infrastructure and at destroying its military and political force.

He pointed out that Israel was looking for pretexts and a suitable atmosphere to launch its aggression in June 1982. He added that the Arab situation following the Camp David accords, the departure of Egypt from the Arab rank, the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, and the Arab differences that resulted from all this helped Israel launch this invasion.

Mr Qaddumi recalled the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States by which Washington guarantees Isreal's military superiority over all the Arab countries. He said that the United States, within the framework of its alliance with Israel, was working to drag the Arab states one after another to the Camp David caravan and to transform the region into a U.S. military base in order to plunder the wealth of this region.

After outlining the U.S. strategic commitment to Israel based on the alliance agreement and its secret clauses, which are aimed at establishing U.S. domination over the Arab people, Mr Qaddumi pointed out that the Reagan plan falls within this framework. He said the Reagan plan does not differ in aim from the Camp David accords. It ignores the national rights of the Palestinian people and gives Israel a free hand to secure its occupation of the occupied Arab territories by building more settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and imposing the Israeli self-rule plan on the inhabitants.

Mr Qaddumi also spoke about the negative and positive aspects of the Zionist war against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon and about the Arab initiatives that followed, such as the Fes summit conference, the establishment of the Arab seven-man committee, and the endorsement of the Arab peace plan. Mr Qaddumi referred to the solidarity the Palestinian question enjoys in the world and reviewed the Palestinian revolution's relations with the Arab world and peace-loving countries of the world.

Mr Qaddumi then spoke about the situation inside the occupied Arab territories and what the Palestinians are facing in terms of Zionist attempts. He also stressed the necessity of unity among the detachments of the Palestinian resistance to confront future tasks. He said that the PLO has established a committee to study and prepare the necessary proposals for the establishment of national unity so that these proposals can be submitted to the PNC.

Habash Press Conference

LD161211 Kuwait KUNA in English 1048 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 16 Feb (KUNA) -- The secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Dr. George Habash called yesterday for "the rejection of all the imperialist American initiatives, particularly the Reagan peace plan." In a press conference here, Dr. Habash said "this rejection is the minimum which the PNC is demanded to adopt."

The Palestinian leaders called for "blocking all roads and gates leading directly or indirectly to the Reagan initiative."

Speaking about relations with Jordan, the PFLP secretary general said "we reject such relations at the present stage with the Jordanian regime and any link should be forged between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and not by the PLO and the Jordanian regime." He, however, said, "Our rejection for such relations is applicable if those ties would lead to Camp David."

Dr. Habash announced the rejection of his front for establishing relations with the Egyptian regime before that regime condemns the Camp David accords. Habash, however, called for deepening relations with the nationalist powers in Egypt.

Private Meetings Reported

PM161201 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb pp 1, 2

['Irfan Nizam ad-Din report: "Opening of PNC Turns Into Solidarity Festival: Agreement on Hot Issues After Noisy Closed Meetings"]

[Excerpts] Algiers -- The PNC opened its meetings in the Palais des Nations last night after the Palestinian command defused the explosion that was threatening Palestinian national unity and reached some sort of an agreement on a "compromise formula" for national unity relating to major issues on which there is disargreement. Although tension has relaxed and taught nerves have slackened, there remained some loose ends and side issues.

The outcome of the preparatory meetings and efforts can be summed up in two points: first, the independent character of the Palestinian decision; second, the desire to preserve national unity and the fear felt by everybody, despite the different stands, of total loss if this unity is endangered.

The conference halls have witnessed an unprecedented "tug-of-war." Six stormy meetings were held and attended by secretaries of the resistance factions during which current and controversial political issues were discussed, such as the peace initiatives, the confederation with Jordan, and the dialogue with Egypt and Israeli forces opposed to Zionism. Several of the resistance leaders did not conceal the fact that the danger of division and rift was evident to all because of the wide gap between the various factions within the Palestinian command that emerged when the meetings began last Friday. But the danger receded because of fear of the consequences of breaking up national unity and as a result of Arab efforts to obtain undertaking from the various factions not to hamper the PNC meetings. The "tug-of-war" took various forms, including threats of withdrawal or expulsion from the PLO, psychological warfare, rumors, and statements. But it appears that several Palestinian and foreign factors prompted everybody to stick to the compromise formula and to be content to disagree over "words," how they should be drafted, and where they should be placed, such as saying "nonacceptance of Reagan's initiative, or rejecting it, or considering it as not meeting the demand of the Palestinian people and their rights."

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the closed meetings of the Palestinian command began with heated exchanges during which the most extreme was Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command [PFLP-GC].

Meanwhile, George Habash was much quieter and silent. And so was Nayif Hawatimah, who took part only in the last two meetings because of his late arrival in Algiers. It was said that he had come from Damascus after a visit to Moscow and Sofia. Habash's and Hawatimah's stands were described as surprising despite their insistence on certain points that were subject of discussion. It was also learned that Fatah has been able to win the first round thanks to coordination among Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and the raising of fundamental issues on which there cannot be disagreement, such as national unity and the independence of the Palestinian decision. The attitude of Habash and Hawatimah contributed to tipping the balance in that they did not insist on adhering to many points in the Tripoli statement that was signed by five organizations, including As-Sa'iqah and the Popular Struggle Front. It was rumored that there is a trend toward expelling the PFLP-GC from the PNC, but Palestinian official sources ruled out this possibility saying that democratic dialogue is a must. The atmosphere of the first meetings suggested that the conference was going to collapse.

Replying to criticism, 'Arafat said: "We are Palestinian factions and not factions belonging to regimes. Anyone who considers himself to be a faction belonging to a regime please declare himself so so that we will know how to deal with him." Ahmad Jibril replied: "Who has empowered you to negotiate with Jordan?" He also brought up the question of Reagan's initiative and the disagreement with Syria, while Habash expressed reservations regarding Article 7 of the Fes resolution. 'Arafat replied: "Come and let us agree on what we want, peace or war. [If war] secure for us the opening of the fronts for fedayeen action and the establishment of military bases in the confrontation states. If the choice is peace, then let us maneuver and move in different directions because stagnation means going backward. We must exploit the time factor while not ignoring the military option."

While the heated debate calmed down Abu Iyad told those present: "Are you prepared to agree on specific points which we would take into the PNC and submit as a joint formula and not disagree there?" Everybody replied in the affirmative. But the first meeting ended without achieving anything and gloom continued to prevail at the second and the third meetings since the rejectionist organizations insisted on rejecting Reagan's initiative and the confederation with Jordan and expressed reservations regarding the Fes resolution. At the fourth meeting there were signs of tension easing, but disagreement continued over implementation and how far it can be carried out. Abu 'Ammar told those present: "It appears that we agree on strategy but disagree on tactics, that is, disagreement over terminologies and procedures." Abu Iyad observed: "The matter must be decided as long as there is agreement on the strategy." The meeting ended with the setting up of a drafting committee representing the various trends (Abu Jihad, Talal Naji, Muhammad Khalifah, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Abu Isma'il, and Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym]). The committee met Sunday and drafted a five-point initial agreement.

Official Spokesman Interviewed

LD170003 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, we have in the studio Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the official spokesman of the PNC and the official in charge of Palestinian information.

[Question] Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman, welcome. The PNC's 16th session has entered its 3d day. What results, Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman, do you expect from this session and what is the importance of this session with regard to the future of the Palestinian revolution?

[Answer] Our PNC has entered its 3d day. In fact, the council embodies the first legislative body in the PLO. It is being held under circumstances which are extremely complex and difficult. The PLO, after its honorable stand in Beirut, departed and its forces were spread out over nine Arab states. The Zionist and U.S. and the Western press in general began to talk about the scattering of the PLO and the absence of Palestinian decisionmaking and the impossibility of the PLO's returning to political and military action by virtue of its geographical dispersion.

After our departure from Beirut, we began to rebuild the institutions of the PLO. It was up to us to convene the PNC because it is the Palestinian parliament and the Palestinian legislative body responsible for telling the world that the Palestinian people still speak as one and that all the Palestinian people in the interior and abroad are ralled around the PLO. Consequently, the PLO Executive Committee derives from this council the legality of its action, the legality of its role, the legality of its representation, and the legality of its leadership of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people.

This the first point; it is about the legality of the PLO and the legality of its representation and the legality of its role in leading the Palestinian struggle.

One of the basic points for us to point out is that the convening of this session is saying to Menahem Begin and the Zionists and the Americans that their expedition in Lebanon, whose aim was the liquidate the PLO -- its leadership, cadres, and also its military force -- that this aim has not been achieved. Our steadfastness in Beirut won extensive world support for the PLO and for the justice of the Palestinian struggle, in addition to the fact that our departure from Beirut did not lead to the disbanding of the organization or its institutions or forces. In fact, we rearranged the Palestinian house with very great speed.

[Question] If Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman permits, we know that public opinion is a basic pillar of the struggle of the Palestinian people. You previously talked about Zionist information, which devoted all its means to discussing the end of Palestinian existence. It is observed, however, that since the beginning of the work of the PNC, the Zionist information machine has been paying special attention to the progress of the work 16th session of the PNC. What is your explanation for this revolution in Zionist information policy?

[Answer] In fact, they do not believe that the PLO has resumed work. They do not believe that the PNC has convened. They do not believe that Yasir 'Arafat will receive all that welcome for our conference which is held in Algiers. There are 4,000 guests, observers, and journalists. This is a great international demonstration for the PLO.

[Question] Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman, much (?emphasis) has been placed on the importance of independent Palestinian decisionmaking either by the Palestinian leaderships or the nationalist and progressive Arab states. Can we know the attitude of the Palestinian revolution toward attempts to bypass Palestinian decisionmaking?

[Answer] To begin with, I salute President Chadli Bendjedid for his definition and accurate understanding of the meaning of the independence of the Palestinian decision. He says: We are with the Palestinian revolution in good and hard times. He adds: We must be more Palestinian than the Palestinians -- the Palestinians first and we are with them second. This is a sound Arab line. This is an Arab strategy. If all the Arab countries followed it, we would have avoided numerous misunderstandings and would have stood -- Arabs and Palestinians -- all of us in one front against Zionism.

But there is a situation which is extremely confusing for the Palestinian revolution. Some Arab sides, on the pretext that they are more revolutionary than the PLO, that they are more pan-Arabist than the PLO, and that they are more Palestinian than the PLO, have constantly been trying to cause misunderstanding to the Palestinian revolution and hamper its role.

For example, any one of us who follows Israeli or America media sees that what the PLO means to them is that if they managed to set up a state in Palestine this state will be a base for the Soviets. They say this in order to frigthen the world against the independent Palestinian state. Anyone who reads the press of those who claim to be revolutionaries among the Arabs, and some of those who claim to be progressive and [word indistinct], would see that the Palestinian revolution is an American stooge, for example.

This exists and is recorded in sessions and resolutions. One of them even concluded that the Palestinian issue is no longer the central issue for the Arabs.

How can one believe this? Can any Arab (?ever believe) that the Palestinian issue is not the central issue? Every Arab from the ocean to the Gulf is pained whenever he hears about Sabra and Shatila. He feels agony when he sees Palestinian children torn apart by the Israelis, when he sees all these massacres. He knows the Palestinian issue is actually the issue of the Arabs; indeed, it is the center of the conflict. It is unthinkable that there is an Arab, a patriot, a nationalist, and progressive and all those big words who says that the Palestinian issue is not the central Arab issue. What, them, is the central issue? All we wish from our brother Arabs and Arab officials is that they provide the Palestinian revolution with Arab affection and Arab brotherhood so that it can carry out its task.

We also say: Leave us fight. Open the borders before us. This is what we have been saying, but unfortunately this is not yet being done.

[Question] 'Abd ar-Rahman, there are some who say that some of the Arab countries in the past used to influence Palestine decisionmaking. The independence of the Palestine decision has now become a sacred principle. But numerous attempts are being made to undermine this principle through biased propaganda based on the fact that representatives of several countries are attending the session at the highest level. The presence of these people of the highest level could influence the Palestine decision in one way or another, it is said. What do you say in this regard?

[Answer] Our attitude is clear toward everything. We have nothing to conceal from our people or from members of our PNC. Lies do not endure long. Truly, there is such propaganda. Daily there are people who level thousands and thousands of accusations against us. But we are here in the Palestinian parliament. All the papers and all the facts will be placed before it. We do not practice covert diplomacy.

[Question] Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, in light of the new facts, it can be said that there is now agreement over the unity of the Palestinian decision despite the multiplicity of groups. What do you say in this regard?

[Answer] Lengthy and comprehensive deliberations have been held during the meetings of the Palestine leadership since the 10th of this month. The meetings lasted for 3 consecutive days. Now we have set up a drafting committee to draft resolutions on crucial matters and on those around which there were differences between the representatives of the leadership, the groups, and the leadership of the PNC. I believe the drafting committee has completed the major part of its work. One or two questions remain, but they will be completed either today or tomorrow. All these will eventually be submitted to the new PNC as recommendations from the Executive Committee by virtue of its role as a leader of Palestinian action and as these recommendations represent its views on the political program for the coming state.

In my opinion, there are no basic differences among the various groups on the general course or on the way of dealing with this or that issue, such as the decisions of the Fes and Jidda summit conferences, confederal unity with Jordan, and other matters. There are varying interpretations covering some provisions and forms, but there are no basic differences within the drafting committee.

[Question] On one hand there is the principle of armed struggle; on the other, there are attempts at a peaceful solution. How can you reconcile the two principles?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] without the Palestinian gun, there would not have been a Palestinian identity. With the armed struggle which we began in 1965 and which continues, we have scored Arab political and diplomatic and international victories.

Had we remained refugees in the camps, nobody would ever have paid any attention to us. We would have been mere recommendations in UN files. But today we are observer members [of the United Nations]. Today we are the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people. More countries recognize the PLO than recognize Israel. All this has been achieved though the struggle of the Palestinian people, through the steadfastness and sacrifices of the Palestinian people, and through the armed struggle and armed revolution which has continued since 1965, since the start of the Fatah movement.

The armed struggle is a means for political and diplomatic struggle. The armed struggle is not staged for the sake of armed struggle; it exists to achieve political objectives. Why are we fighting? We are fighting to achieve the Palestinian people's national rights headed by their right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestine state on the soil of the Palestine homeland.

Should conditions for reaching a political solution, a solution through diplomatic contacts, present themselves, this will help the military action. There are different views on these matters, but we differentiate between political moves and political solutions.

[Question] Thus, in your opinion, the principles of political peace and armed struggle do not conflict.

[Answer] The political line and the military line complement each other and proceed in the same direction. We see no contradiction between them.

[Question] Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman, the Fes peace plan is considered the minimum acceptable thing. Certainly, the PNC and PLO will discuss the various peace plans currently on hand at present. Will the program to be adopted by the council be tougher than the peace plan?

[Answer] We also have our own views on both the Arab peace plan and on the other plans. We have our particular expression with regard to these plans. I stress here the word "expression": how to deal in political and diplomatic talks with these plans. We are part of the Arab group which approved the Arab plan stating that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and providing for the establishing of the Palestine state in the land of Palestine, with Jerusalem its capital. That is what we understand about the Arab peace plan.

But we have pointed out and we should point out [words indistinct] that the Arabs should have the military option open to them. How are we going to liberate Arab land? Shall we liberate it orally? Words do not liberate anything; only force liberates. There is no people in the world who liberated their land without struggle and blood. This is a well-known fact.

We are facing an Israeli cancer; it is a real cancer. Every Arab who believes in the Palestine question must [words indistinct] I wish to remind you here that following the great Tyre operation carried out by the Palestinian fighters -- and here I wish to disclose for the first time that the number of Israelis killed in this operation, as given by American sources, reached 450 Israeli dead. Sharon said [words indistinct].

As-Sa'iqah Leader Praises Syria

JN161624 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 16 Feb (SANA) -- Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah forces, has affirmed that the Palestinian revolution factions must safeguard national unity by basing their endeavors on a national foundation comprising the PLO National Charter and PNC resolutions. In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Comrade al-Qadi said: We seek to make or try to make clear political resolutions, particularly after some have strayed from the sound, correct course in our honorable march. He noted that such resolutions must be adopted to answer the questions submitted in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Comrade al-Qadi said that discussions during the past few days showed that the Palestinian leaders are almost unanimous in completely rejecting Reagan's plan because it rejects the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, denies the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state, and calls for deputizing the Jordanian regime to negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

He said that there is almost unanimous agreement on rejecting contact with any Zionist party that expressly believes in Zionism in word or deed. He said that the general feeling is to completely reject the proposed U.S. settlement plan in the region because it aims at liquidating the Palestinian issue and imposing absolute U.S. hegemony over the Arab homeland.

Comrade al-Qadi said that he hoped that the PNC would adopt a very clear political position on all these issues in order to distinguish friend from foe. He said that the brother Palestinians are unanimous that there can be no return to Palestine without Syria. He said that anyone who struggles to liberate Palestine cannot be a real struggler by ignoring Syria.

Comrade al-Qadi added: Syria has sacrificed a great deal for Palestine. I wonder if the Arab citizen knows how many Syrian martyrs have sacrificed their pure blood for the Palestinian issue throughout the past 35 years. Syria is the only country that is arming itself to liberate Palestine. I do not believe that there is any Arab country that is buying arms in order to confront the Zionist enemy other than Syria because most of the Arab regimes only buy arms to defend their borders. He said that Syria is allocating three-quarters of its budget to arm itself for the sake of Palestine. Anyone who ignores this fact cannot be sincere or serious about liberating Palestine.

He said that Syria seeks no thanks or gratitude for struggling for the Palestinian issue. Those who ignore Syria's role will cause their nation and people grave harm. He affirmed that Syria sacrifices because it believes in the Palestinian issue. He said that the Syrian people, party, and leader believe that Palestine is Syria and Syria, Palestine and that Syria's destiny is to confront the Zionist aggression and always take the initiative for the sake of Palestine.

HABASH PREVIEWS PNC SESSION IN AL-QABAS INTERVIEW

GF141922 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Feb 83 p 17

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General George Habash by Khalil at-Taqi in Damascus -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] is being held in circumstances different from those of past sessions, particularly in view of the legendary steadfastness in Beirut, which should have resulted in the effective independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and in the escalation of military action that strengthens political action. Do you believe this has happened? What is the effect of these circumstances on the forthcoming PNC meetings?

[Answer] On the Arab level it is clear that the forthcoming PNC session is being held in circumstances in which some regimes are intensifying their activity and are achieving success in gaining acceptance for their plans in the region. During the period since the 15th PNC session such regimes have embarked on a number of activities. The result of these activities was the adoption of King Fahd's plan and placing it within an Arab context. An amended form of Fahd's plan was approved at Fes; it then became known as the Arab peace plan. These regimes also succeeded to a great extent in ending the isolation of the Egyptian regime and in extricating themselves from all resolutions calling for the boycott of the Egyptian regime and which were adopted in 1978.

We in the PFLP believe that the preservation of Palestinian national unity, whose base is an independent Palestinian decision supported by everything that is patriotic and progressive in the Arab nation and which categorically rejects all forms of U.S. paths, is the appropriate response to the challenges facing us and the guarantee of the revolution's continuity and development.

We wish to record here that we reject outright and condemn all attempts to deal directly or indirectly with the U.S. path that seek to employ the great political and moral influence gained by the Palestinian revolution during the battles in Lebanon in this direction. We will have to, now and in the future, struggle diligently against such attempts and those who make them, so that our people's struggle and sacrifices throughout past years will not have been in vain.

[Question] How do you view the effect of the situation outside the occupied territories, particularly following the recent fighting in Lebanon, on the national struggle within the occupied territories?

[Answer] As a result of the recent war in Lebanon, the Palestinian revolution lost its main overt military, information, and political base. Nevertheless, it emerged with a great moral and political gain which, once it knows how to run the battle in the present stage both politically and militarily, qualifies it to preserve the achievements of Palestinian struggle and to give impetus to the struggle of our Palestinian people in general, and to our people in the occupied territories in particular.

The situation in the occupied territories indicates that after the Lebanon war our masses are no less prepared or willing to struggle and arise than they were before the war. Indeed, they are now more willing to struggle than before. However, this bright fact should not blind us from seeing some of the negative effects of the activity of some Palestinian leaders after the Lebanon war -- particularly those activities connected with relations with the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes. The courtship by some people in the Palestinian revolution with the positive aspects of the Reagan plan and the willingness to show further moderation infringe in many cases on the red lines which no flexible Palestinian stand can be allowed to cross.

Therefore, we in the PFLP believe that the crystallization of national unity outside the occupied territories on the basis of rejecting the U.S. path, in all its forms, is the prelude to the preservation of national unity inside the occupied homeland, the development of Palestinian struggle, and the weakening of suspect "options." We believe that this will be one of the major tasks of the forthcoming PNC session.

[Question] How do you assess the Palestinian military situation in light of the present circumstances brought about by the developments that followed the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut?

[Answer] First, it is necessary to emphasize the need to continue and escalate the armed struggle by various ways and means. It is the main course of Palestinian struggle and the great lever that lifts all other forms of struggle: on the political, information, mass, and other other levels.

In this regard we should warn against the dangers of some voices in the Palestinian arena and outside it calling for dropping the military option and being content with action on the diplomatic and information levels, on the pretext that the post-Beirut stage requires only such forms of action. Indeed, some forces try to interpret the Lebanon war in their own way so as to reach the conclusion that the war proved the fultility of the military option for the Palestinian revolution and that it is not possible for the military option to continue or achieve its desired aims. We in the PFLP, as I said in my answer to a previous question, believe the contrary. We believe the war proved the correctness of the military option. Therefore, we must hold on to the Palestinian gun and escalate our armed struggle.

However, there is no doubt that the post-Beirut stage requires that we look for new forms and levels for Palestinian military action.

One of the main lessons of the Lebanon war was the importance of covert military action and not military action based on major confrontations between us and the Zionist enemy -- because, as is well known, the enemy has greatly superior forces.

Emphasis on the importance of covert military action through small military groups should not be construed as belittling the importance of the overt manifestation of Palestinian armed struggle. On the contrary, what is required today as we are about to begin a new PNC session is to pay the greatest attention possible to such overt military presence, support and develop it in view of its importance on the political and mass levels, in addition to its importance on the combat level.

In this regard we in the PFLP believe that the Palestinian leadership should review the dispersal of the armed Palestinian forces and regroup them close to the occupied Palestinian territory so that they will be able to carry out what is required of them at any time. We also believe that military action from the Arab fronts bordering occupied Palestine should be complicated so that the enemy can be preoccupied more than one way. Needless to say, the escalation of armed struggle within the occupied territories is the Palestinian leadership's principal task in the coming stage.

[Question] The results of the Arab summit in Fes presented for the first time a specific Arab view of peace that was represented in the Arab plan carried by seven-member committee to the major capitals. Do you think this plan can achieve the minimum ambitions of the Palestinian Arab people?

[Answer] As you know, the Arab peace plan is not a newborn political decision but is a result of all this hectic Arab activity which has been endeavoring to arrange matters in the Arab region for a long time. We in the Popular Front rejected the Fes plan on the basis of our rejection of the U.S. course which is facilitated by this plan and the contents of this plan which substantially conflict with the objectives of struggle of the Palestinian and Arab peoples. It is correct that this plan in part mentions the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state. However, it is also correct that some Arab regimes wanted to exploit that in order to avoid the rejection of Article 7, which implicitly contains recognition of the Zionist entity as a step toward retracting the other articles so that this plan remains in conformity with the Reagan plan and takes the Zionist reservations into consideration.

The latest events have proven that some Arabs were racing to bless and support the U.S. plan and began to abandon openly and flagrantly the plan adopted by the Fes summit before the ink in which it was written could dry. Therefore, we in the PFLP warned against this plan and against Arab concessions for the sake of the plan. We said on more than one occasion that matters should not be tackled through a reading of some of the articles, but through knowledge of the wherefroms and objectives of the plan. We see that the Arab plan, in its objectives, spirit, and decisions, is a great step toward complete surrender. We see that it is a violation of all the unanimous Arab resolutions. The plan not only implicitly recognizes the Zionist entity; it also drops the military option in dealing with the enemy and puts all eggs in the U.S. basket in spite of the tour of the seven-member committee. It was apparently known that the principal objective of this tour was the White House.

It should not be ignored that the attempts by some of the Arab regimes to violate the unity of the Palestinian representation within the framework of the PLO during the meetings of the Fes summit paved the way for King Husayn to declare his confederation plan and, in this way, he responded to an American wish that was included in the Reagan plan. The Fes plan does not represent the minimum limit of the national ambitions of the Palestinian people and also substantially conflicts with these ambitions.

[Question] The Arab seven-member committee carried the Arab peace plan to Washington, Paris, Moscow, and Beijing. How do you assess the results of its work?

[Answer] In our view as a popular front and according to all available information, the Arab seven-member committee found nothing new in the capitals which it has visited so far; it only heard the previous known positions of these countries. Washington affirmed adherence to the plan of its President and called on the Arabs to make further concessions so that this plan becomes the basis for any coming negotiations. France called for seizing the opportunity of the U.S. initiative before it is too late, while the PRC only repeated its known position regarding the Palestinian issue and the Middle East issue in general. The only country which expressed readiness to support all Arab steps aimed at restoring the usurped Arab rights was the friendly Soviet Union.

In this regard we have to say that the seven-member committee has violated the decisions of the Arab summits -- among which are the Fes decisions -- on the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, by excluding the organization from the Washington visit because of the U.S. veto and by attempting to deny it official representation in the visit to London in response to the request of the British Government.

[Question] The coming stage on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels requires a new work program in light of the political changes which have occurred. How do you view the features of this program which should be adopted by the PNC in its 16th session?

[Answer] We in the PFLP will consider the PNC successful in its coming session if it issues a political communique that clearly, absolutely, and openly rejects the U.S. plan for the region. That is because we believe that the major threat to the Palestinian struggle in this stage is the Reagan plan, its translations, and its supplements. In this regard I would like to recall that Palestinian national unity has not been threatened by differences in the Palestinian arena on some important issues, nor will it ever be threated by such differences. However, I would like to emphasize that Palestinian national unity will be subjected to a direct threat if some of the Palestinian forces follow the U.S. line.

We believe that the PNC in its coming session is required to reject clearly and openly the Reagan plan and all U.S. plans for the region. We also believe that the council is required to put an end to Palestinian-Egyptian contacts, to reconsider Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and to condemn contacts with some Zionist figures, because these practices are considered preparations for following the U.S. line. National unity is our greatest weapon and is the major task facing the coming session of our National Council. This unity cannot be safeguarded and strengthened without the issuance of a political communique that creates a common background for resisting the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against our Palestinian people and our Arab masses.

[Question] The PLO's relations with Jordan in the post-Beirut stage have brought about widescale controversy in Palestinian circles. How do you view these relations in the present and future, and what in your view should these relations be?

[Answer] In the past the PFLP opposed, and it still opposes, any form of a special relationship with the Jordanian regime. In the 14th session of the PNC we opposed any relationship between the PLO and the Jordanian regime. We reaffirmed this stand in the 15th session of the PNC. The reason is our knowledge of the history of the Jordanian regime's relations with the Palestinian question and our awareness that the Jordanian regime will seek to make this relationship serve its own interests. It will have many cards in its hand which it can use to regain its role in the occupied territories at the expense of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

We have the right to ask ourselves a number of questions: What is the purpose of the special relationship with Jordan which some people are seeking? What is the purpose of stating that such a special relationship exists in a statement issued by the PNC? What circumstances will be created by such a special relationship? What are its consequences now and in the future?

We in the PFLP have clear and well-known answers to these questions. It is up to the others to come forward with their clear answers to these questions. We rejected a special relationship with the Jordanian regime in the pre-Beirut stage. How can we accept it in the post-Beirut stage when the region is seething with political plans and when the Reagan plan has surfaced as a major threat? The Reagan plan affirms Jordan's special role in a political settlement, and King Husayn's declaration of his confederation plan was in response to the Reagan plan.

A simple examination of King Husayn's latest stands will show his total readiness to join a U.S.-sponsored settlement. On the one hand, he has declared March 1982 as the final date for the proclamation of Palestinian and Arab agreement to enter into negotiations, thus leading the campaign of trumpeting; on the other, he is threatening the PLO and saying that he is prepared to bypass it and cooperate with those inside the occupied homeland unless the PLO hastens and accepts his confederation plan and what it entails in the way of participation and delegation. The Jordanian regime is clearly and catagorically refusing to accept PLO demands to carry out any organized political activity among the masses of our people in Jordan. It is still continuing to pursue and harass Palestinian nationalists and is putting them on trial for the PLO affiliation.

While we reject any special relationship between the PLO and the Jordanian regime, we believe it is necessary to establish a special and distinctive relationship with the fraternal Jordanian people. This matter should be clear so that some circles within the PLO will not have the opportunity to establish a special relationship with the Jordanian regime under the guise of establishing a special relationship with the Jordanian people.

In its forthcoming 16th session the PNC should review relations with the Jordanian regime on the following basis:

1. Rejection of King Husayn's confederation plan.

2. Adherence to the principle that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

3. Rejection of all forms of participation and delegation.

4. Adherence to the program of the Palestinian revolution for the present stage and adherence to the goal of an independent state as an objective of the Palestinian struggle.

These are the constraints that should govern Pal stinian-Arab relations, including Jordanian-Palestinian relations. These constraints are the result of the minimal level of Palestinian concensus and do not represent the full stand which the PFLP had previously defined, namely, rejection of any relationship with the Jordanian regime.

[Question] What is your stand on the current dialogue with Egypt, and how far can such a dialogue go?

[Answer] The contacts which some PLO leaders are holding with the Egyptian regime will be among the topics that will be discussed by the PNC at its forthcoming session. In its meetings in Aden, and later during the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis, the Palestinian leadership paused at this question and agreed on the need to halt all forms of contacts with Husni Mubarak's regime. However, there are some people in the Palestinian arena who have become accustomed to sidestepping the decisions of the Palestinian leadership. Indeed, they sometimes attribute to the Palestinian leadership what it has not said or what it has not agreed upon. This has happened with regard to the said meetings.

We wish to emphasize that contacts with the Egyptian regime are not only a violation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit but are also a violation of the resolutions of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, as well as a violation of the resolutions of the PNC, the PLO Central Committee, and the PLO Central Council. Therefore, the rightist parties that are holding such contacts bear the responsibility of the harmful consequences of such contacts for the Palestinian struggle and for Palestinian national unity in particular.

In this regard it is our right to ask what are the real aims and intentions of the insistence of Palestinian quarters in holding such contacts despite the fact that they conflict with the resolutions of various leadership bodies of the Palestinian revolution.

It is also our right to ask whether such contacts constitute the beginning of a sympathetic response to the U.S. plan, particularly as the Egyptian regime openly declares its adoption of this plan and constantly calls on the PLO to recognize the Zionist entity and accept the formula for a joint delegation in any future political talks.

Perhaps what makes such contacts and their harmful consequences for the Palestinian struggle more serious is:

1. The consequent Palestinian differences and the damage to Palestinian national unity.

2. The consequent Palestinian-Arab differences and specifically differences with the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, particularly as there is currently coolness between the PLO's leaders and some of these countries.

3. Such relations provide a cover for the return of the Egyptian regime to the Arab fold. With it will come the Camp David accords.

4. Such relations will provide a cover for suspect figures within the occupied homeland in their intensive efforts and activity to sidestep the PLO.

Therefore, we believe that such contacts -- which are taking place during the stage of preparations for the Reagan plan -- constitute a great threat to the Palestinian struggle in the present stage.

Thus we believe that the PNC should adopt a clear decision condemning such contacts and engaging in them and stop them immediately.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPERS ON LACK OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARABS

GF170640 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arabs and the Ability To Propose Better Alternatives" AL-JAZIRAH wrote: Although we have not yet read the detailed memorandum which U.S. President Reagan has sent to King Hassan II of Morocco, chairman of the Arab seven-member committee charged with putting forth the Arab peace plan to the leaders of the five great powers, on his Middle East plan which was discussed during the seven-member committee's delegation to Washington during the discussion of the Arab peace plan, it can be viewed as a good gesture by President Reagan that signifies his seriousness in cooperating with the Arab countries to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict.

The element of good gestures that signify a seriousness in the search for a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict has always been lacking in the efforts of many countries, particularly the great powers, such as the Soviet Union which has not made any genuine positive efforts in this regard. In its political support it has not participated with a tangible constructive effort in the Arab and international efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict. Indeed, its military aid to the Arab countries was not equal to U.S. military aid to Israel, thus tipping the military balance scale between the Arab countries and Israel in the latter's favor.

Perhaps the Arabs could have achieved greater progress in their efforts to liberate their occupied territories and regain their usurped rights if the Soviet Union had been serious in its political and military support for the Arab countries. However, it was not. The Soviet Union pursued only its own self-interests in the Middle East. It utilized its power and influence to obstruct all the solutions that have been proposed.

AL-MADINAH added: The possiblity that the United States will accept the Arab peace plan as a realistic peaceful solution that achieves the principles adopted by the United Nations and UN Security Council for establishing peace in the Middle East are greater today than at any other time in the past, and is more explicit than the negative acceptance shown by the Soviet Union in raising slogans of political support for Arab and Palestinian rights without extending any serious assistance to the Arabs and Palestinians.

Papers on Haddad's Actions

GF170622 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Referring to the declaration by the dissident Sa'd Haddad on the expansion of his so-called state of free Lebanon, 'UKAZ said in its editorial: The step taken by the dissident Sa'd Haddad confirms that Israel's expansionist policy in Lebanon is being implemented. It is a policy whose objective is to destroy Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and consolidate the policy of small states for sects and other forces. The consolidation of Sa'd Haddad's position in southern Lebanon is likely to undermine the talks whose purpose is to bring about Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

'UKAZ added: Sa'd Haddad's step confirms that Israel is still persisting in its plan to occupy Lebanon.

On the same topic AL-MADINAH said that Sa'd Haddad's declaration is a new diabolical development in Lebanon that adds another tragedy to Lebanon's tragedies. AL-MADINAH calls on the Arab countries to shoulder their responsibility toward this grave event in order to prevent the loss of Lebanon.

PDRY

SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ADEN

GF112006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] A Soviet economic delegation led by Comrade Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY that will last for several days, to attend the fourth session of the joint permanent committee for technical and economic cooperation which will begin tomorrow.

In a statement to ANA, the leader of the delegation said the committee will discuss important issues pertaining to joint projects in the PDRY and means of furthering relations of cooperation in economic and other fields. He said during his visit documents will be signed on cooperation between the PDRY and the Soviet Union in various fields.

He was received at the airport by Planning Minister Brother Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim.

Minister Meets Soviet Official

GF121846 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Aziz, Central Committee member and minister of communications, discussed with Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations -- who is currently visiting the PDRY at the head of a delegation to attend the meeting of the joint PDRY-Soviet economic and technical committee -- future prospects of cooperation between the two friendly countries in the fields of transport and communications and the progress of the Communications Ministry's projects which are being implemented in cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Brother 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Aziz expressed his satisfaction over the (?progress) of bilateral relations in the transport and communications fields.

The meeting was attended by the economic counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

Party Secretary Meets Official

GF131745 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, Central Committee member and secretary of the Central Committee, met in his office today with Comrade Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on various issues pertaining to the economic relations between the two friendly countries.

Brother Anis Hasan Yahya conveyed to Comrade Mordvinov the appreciation of the party, government, and our masses in the PDRY for the various aspects of aid extended to us by the friendly Soviet Union, which has had an influential role in the economic and social development during the past years. He also expressed his confidence that the meetings of the joint committee will be crowned with success and will result in new strides in furthering relations between the two friendly countries in the service of the two friendly peoples.

On his part, Comrade Mordvinov expressed the Soviet Union's anxiousness for and readiness to develop cooperation relations with the PDRY in line with the spirit of the firm comradely relations linking the two friendly parties, governments, peoples, and countries. He expressed his admiration for the successes and accomplishments that have been achieved in our country and affirmed that they are a real translation of the PDRY people's anxiousness to build their (?prosperous) future in close cooperation with the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries.

Chairman Meets USSR Official

GF141754 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Comrade Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and chairman of the Soviet side in the joint Yemeni-Soviet economic committee. Comrade Mordvinov is participating in the meetings of the committee currently being held in Aden.

Yemeni-Soviet economic relations and the progress of projects financed by the Soviet Union in the PDRY were discussed. Comrade Mordvinov briefed Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on the results of the meeting of the joint economic committee in Aden and the next steps to be taken in the development projects. The brother secretary general assessed Soviet-Yemeni relations and expressed the pride of our party, country, and people in the close relations that are strengthening every day in various fields between our country and the Soviet Union. He also expressed appreciation for the joint efforts that are being made to execute the projects in PDRY. The meeting was attended by Brother Mahmud Sa'id al-Madhi, member of the Central Committee and minister of finance; Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning; Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply; and Comrade Yelichov, Soviet charge d'affaires in Aden [name and title as heard].

Finance Minister Receives Official

GF161846 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Brother Mahmud Sa'id al-Mahdi, member of the YSP Central Committee and finance minister, met in his office today with Comrade Mordvinov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet side in the joint Yemeni-Soviet economic committee, who is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, economic cooperation between the two friendly countries and the means to develop it were discussed.

DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ADEN

GF121320 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] Vice Foreign Affairs Minister (Pak Chung-yon) arrived in Aden this morning on a several days visit to the PDRY, during which he will hold talks with brother party and state officials on the means to develop relations of cooperation between the DPRK and the PDRY. He was received at the airport by Brother Muhammad ali 'Inayah, deputy foreign affairs minister, and Muhammad Ahmad Hasan, acting director of the Political Department.

Deputy Chairman Receives Official

GF151523 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, received (Pak Chung-yon), Democratic People's Republic of Korea vice foreign affairs minister, in his office today.

During the meeting, bilateral relations, the means to develop them, and the developments in the region, the Middle East and on the international arena were discussed.

The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral relations.

DPRK Official Departs 15 Feb

GF151744 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Comrade (Pak Chung-yon), Democratic People's Republic of Korea vice foreign affairs minister, left Aden today following his several days visit to the PDRY, during which he held talks with several party and state officials on deepening and developing bilateral relations.

In a statement to ANA, he said that views were exchanged on the nonaligned conference which is scheduled to be held in the Indian capital next month. He expressed his satisfaction over the identity of the views exchanged during his talks with the party and state officials.

The DPRK official was seen off at the airport by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Brother Muhammad 'Ali Inayah and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

MUBARAK MEETS WITH NONALIGNED JOURNALISTS 15 FEB

NC151510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning with members attending the nonaligned states journalists conference, which is currently convening in Cairo. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif and journalists president Salah Jalal. The meeting lasted 2 hours following which Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said that the president spoke at this meeting about Egypt's leading role in the Nonaligned Movement. The president then answered questions by conference members.

The following is a recording of the statements which Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif made following President Husni Mubarak's meeting with journalists from the nonaligned states:

[Begin recording] At the outset of the meeting, the president spoke about his interest in holding this meeting and about Egypt's leading role in the Nonaligned Movement since it was founded. The president said: We are on the threshold of the Delhi summit. He said that he wished the Nonaligned Movement success in reaching resolutions regarding what will be presented at its forthcoming meeting.

The president answered a number of questions posed to him. There were many questions and I will sum up the most important ones. To a question on Egypt's declaration that it sides with Iraq, the extent of this support, and its siding with Iraq in the future, the president said: We do not approve the principle of solving problems by force. We do not approve of any occupation of land by force. This does not conform with our principles. By a glance at the war, we will find out that Iraq is an Islamic and Arab state and Iran is an Islamic state but not an Arab state. When the war began, we said that we are against the war. When President Saddam Husayn announced the withdrawal of his forces to the Iraqi border, we announced that we will support Iraw with arms and ammunition to defend its land. In the meantime, we asked both sides to settle the issue peacefully. We rule out the dispatch of any Egyptian forces to Iraq. Any presence there will further complicate the problem. All we can do is to urge both sides to solve their problem. Consequently, I would like to clarify that the dispatch of Egyptian forces is a dangerous matter and is out of the question.

To a question about the division in the OAU as a result of the attempt to raise the Sahara problem at the Tripoli meeting and Tripoli's insistence not to recognize the legitimacy of Hissein Habre's regime, the president said: We do not approve either issue in our capacity as one of the OAU states. Egypt is doing its utmost to safeguard OAU's unity.

Asked about Egypt's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, the president said: During our visit to the United States, we exerted very big efforts so that the United States would use its influence to achieve the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. We know that this withdrawal will be achieved simultaneously with the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon in order to establish Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory.

The president added: I explained to the United States the seriousness of the situation in Lebanon and the extent of its effect on the entire area and on solving the Palestinian problem. The president further said: I was extremely frank both in explaining the situation and its effects. I hope that the United States will play an effective role but I cannot promise this.

In answer to a question about the Palestinian issue, the president said: The U.S. President met with King Husayn in Washington. It is possible that a role could be played and action could be initiated when an agreement is reached between Jordan and the PLO and between Jordan and the West Bank. The president added: I appeal to the Palestinians who are meeting in Algiers now to adopt a unified stand with King Husayn. This will give them strength to act and exploit the available opportunity or else the Israeli settlements will expand and the problem will be aggravated further.

Questioned about Egypt's role in the Nonaligned Movement, the president said: Each state gives priorities to its actions at home and abroad. As a developing state we must have such priorities. The Nonaligned Movement was not one of our priorities at one stage when we were occupied with the Middle East problem and the Palestinian problem. They occupied most of our time during the past period.

Asked about the legacy and problems which he inherited, the president said: President 'Abd an-Nasir declared and assumed the principles of the 23 July revolution. President Anwar as-Sadat assumed them after him. I assumed the responsibility in accordance with the 23 July revolution's principles and with the will of the people. No matter how heavy the legacy is, the question is one of continuation of the state. The question is not one of legacy but one of Egypt's interests and those of the people. The problems are continuous and the solutions and sacrifices must be continuous. We have no time to waste in evaluating the past but we are looking forward to the future to achieve development in Egypt and realize the interests of our people.

In response to a question that both Cuba and Egypt are aligned with two different camps, the president said: Egypt does not rotate in the orbit of any small or big state. When it founded the Nonaligned Movement, Egypt had special relations with the Soviet Union, but was not accused of being aligned. Today, we have special relations with the United States, but we also have our full independence and our decision, which does not depend on any foreign power. There is military and economic cooperation between us and the United States. However, the time will come when we will also have normal relations with the Soviet Union. The president gave as an example India and its relations with the Soviet Union. He said: India does not permit the establishment of foreign bases on its land, and Egypt, too, does not permit the establishment of any foreign bases in its territory.

Asked about the Lebanese crisis and an apparent change in the essence of Arab policy on the Palestinian question, the president replied: I hope so. What I hope now is that an agreement is reached between the Palestinians and the Jordanians in the interest of the Palestinian issue, because there will be no action to find a solution without such an agreement. The Arab stance is clear in the Arab press, and you read the press.

To a question about the extent of President Mubarak's agreement with President Mitterrand's view that the Iraqi war is more serious than the Palestinian problem, the president said: The Iraqi-Iranian war is dangerous to the area, and the Palestinian question is just as dangerous to the area. The two issues are dangerous to the Arab area and the Middle East region. Both are very dangerous.

Asked what Egypt's stand would be if the Palestinians gave a mandate to King Husayn, the president said: All we want is a just and comprehensive settlement of the issue in Egypt's presence or its absence. Egypt has adopted the Palestinian question since the beginning. It has sacrificed the blood of its sons and billions of pounds for its sake.

It turned the question from one of refugees into one of people by working for the issuance of UN Resolution 242. There can be no solution without Egypt.

The president was asked: Fifteen months after your assumption of power, has Your Excellency the President achieved the change you wanted for society? The president answered: A head of a state cannot achieve the change which society needs in 15 months. There have been many changes in society in the past 15 months. This is not a change of persons. The change of persons occurs automatically on the basis of a person's success in shouldering the responsibility. The stage through which we are passing in Egypt is not a stage of sudden decisions or the method of electric shocks. We are not in need of such a method. We are passing through a stage that requires interest in development to serve this people, and development requires stability. Every change, even in persons, has its time. However, change for the sake of change alone is out of the question, as far as I am concerned. This is what the president said. He added: I do not want to speak about the achievements realized, but you and society can appraise them.

Regarding the president's visit to India and whether he will tour other countries, the president said: I do not plan any visits after India, although I have invitations from many states.

The president was then asked: Your Excellency, Mr President, you have said that there can be no solution [to the Middle East] problem without Egypt. How does this fit with the severance of relations with the Arabs and without Egypt's return to the Arab world or the return of the Arab world to Egypt? The president answered: The return of the ambassadors to Egypt is not the cornerstone. We do not give this issue priority or attach importance to it. However, there are consultations between us and some Arab states. We hold consultations with Iraq, Jordan, the PLO, and a number of other Arab states and exchange views with them. We must be realistic. What I wish from the Arab brothers is that they be realistic and eager to solve the Palestinian problem.

To a question that Egypt has adopted the method of negotiations to settle the Palestinian question and has advocated this method, the president said: There can be no settlement of the question without holding negotiations and sitting around the negotiations table. The United States sat at the negotiations table with Vietnam. We are exerting efforts to see that the parties concerned sit around the negotiations table. When this happens, the road to the solution will open.

Regarding a question that the Fes summit is considered an implicit recognition of Israel, the president said: The fact is that Israel exists and that it is recognized. What is important is that we sit around the negotiations table to reach a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian question and that Israel contains itself inside its borders.

'ALI CONFERS WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ON LEBANON

NC151412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason. Questions pertaining to the situation in the area, the situation in Lebanon and relations between Egypt and Israel were discussed at the meeting.

During the meeting, 'Ali emphasized Egypt's stand on the need to quickly reach an agreement on the Israeli withdrawal from every inch of Lebanon and to maintain Lebanon's unity, sovereignty over its territory, and national independence.

'Ali expressed Egypt's deep concern over the developments in southern Lebanon and the conditions of the Palestinian refugees and the various Lebanese factions there.

AL-AHRAR SEES IMMINENT CABINET RESHUFFLE

PM161749 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Feb 83 p 1

[Salah Qabadaya report: "Cabinet Reshuffle: Ministers Cited in 'Ismat as-Sadat's Case To Be Dropped"]

[Text] A Cabinet reshuffle is to take place in a few days' time. The reshuffle will involve several prominent names. All the signs indicate that it will not be a minor one. The ministers who were cited by assistant socialist public prosecutor Counselor Husni 'Abd al-Hamid during the hearing of the case of 'Ismat as-Sadat and his family will be excluded from the Cabinet.

Counselor Husni 'Abd al-Hamid said in his pleas that "the matter of the ministers, concerning which the investigations and court hearings revealed that they were involved in defective decisions and in making blatant exceptions [for Ismat as-Sadat], is left to the court."

It was proposed to postpone the Cabinet reshuffle until Dr Rif't Khaffaji, president of the Court of Ethics, issues the legal reasons on which the court's judgment is based, so that this will be the explanation for ousting the ministers concerned and for the reshuffle which, it was previously announced, had been postponed. The proposal was turned down on the grounds that the court's legal reasons for its verdict might involve "former ministers" [as published].

Observers believe that the rejection of the proposal to await publication of the court's report means that the Cabinet reshuffle will take place within hours.

On the other hand, one of the leading dailies the day before yesterday withdrew the publication of an interview which its chief editor had had with a leading minister, which was taken as an indication that the Cabinet reshuffle will include this leading minister who also has a key post in the National Democratic Party.

NO COMMENT ON U.S. FLEET IN MEDITERRANEAN

NC171058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) -- A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has affirmed that currently no joint Egyptian-U.S. maneuvers are being conducted, but that at present certain Egyptian crews are being trained to use and operate electronic sets installed in the U.S. reconnaissance aircraft. This was contained in a statement by the Foreign Ministry official spokesman in answer to a question by MENA on news agency reports today about joint Egyptian-U.S. maneuvers.

In his statement, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry official spokesman said that it is well known that Egypt concluded a contract for a number of U.S. reconnaissance aircraft which it will receive shortly. The spokesman refused to comment on reports of U.S. fleet movements in the Mediterranean. He said that Egypt has nothing to do with these reports. He stressed that everything is normal in the Egyptian forces and according to ordinary plans.

SADDAM DECORATES AIR FORCE PILOTS, SPEAKS ON WAR

JN161955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has asserted that Iraq is still proud and strong and that the will to fight is still living in the consciousness of the Iraqis, whose minds have become more capable of discernment and analysis, of defining their targets, and of choosing the best methods of carrying out their duties.

Speaking during a ceremony to decorate a group of Air Force officers for their valor today, the president said that the new Iraq is more immune to harm and more capable of confronting the enemies and defeating them. He said: The force of evil which is hostile to the Iraqis and their right to a decent life will be destroyed.

President Saddam Husayn said that the main aim of the Zionist enemy, which has instigated the Tehran rulers and which is still supplying them with weapons and spare parts, is to destroy the Iraqi people's will to fight and to remain steadfast. The Zionist enemy is trying to destroy the fighting will of the Iraqi soldier and to destroy the Iraqi equipment which has been bought or built over the past few years, particularly after the July 1968 revolution.

The president added: The Zionists will regret this, especially the blood of Iraqis that has been shed. They will regret it because they mainly wanted to surpass the Arabs who had no experience in fighting and to keep this experience only for themselves. If a nation and people want to fight correctly, they should gain experience in fighting. The war has taught us that nations' armies cannot be built in the correct scientific and practical manner unless these nations have experienced war in economic, political, and military terms.

Addressing the Air Force officers, the president said: Our enemies imagined that your Air Force would be destroyed by the Iranian Air Force, whose officers were trained by the Americans and Zionists and who had American and Zionist knowhow and advanced equipment. What happened was that the Iraqi Air Force (?triumphed) and kept the upper hand.

COMMUNIQUE 1,002 REPORTS ON IRANIAN ATTACK

JN161803 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Communique No 1002 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 16 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave armed forces, which have destroyed the power of the treacherous enemy and his arrogant schemes in the Maysan sector and other sectors of the war front through the strong arms of and bright minds of their men, will continue, God willing, their great victories over the enemy forces and will make their fate harder and more painful. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. The enemy made a desperate attempt to attack the position of one of our brigades in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan sector. Our forces confronted the attacking enemy force with courage and determination and clashed with it in a fierce battle during which our forces were able to destroy the enemy force and to inflict heavy losses in men and equipment on it. A number of enemy personnel were captured and the rest fled the battlefield in humiliation and ignominy.

2. Our capable army helicopters today continued their effective, powerful attacks against enemy positions and personnel assembly points in the Ash-Shib area within the Maysan sector, inflicting heavy losses in men, arms, and equipment on them. In coordination with our ground forces, our helicopters pursued the remnants of the enemy force and destroyed their attack in the same sector. All our helicopters returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God. There were 28 combat missions today.

3. One of our forward units raided enemy positions in the central sector of the front and was able to kill eight enemy soldiers and destroy three infantry positions. In the same sector the enemy lost seven killed, several wounded, and one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in clashes with other units of our armed forces.

4. One was killed and one infantry position destroyed in the area east of Basra.

5. The evil Khomeynite clique's artillery today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah intermittently causing damage to a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 February

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM NUMAYRI

JN161417 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri on relations between the two countries. President Numayri's personal envoy Lieutenant General Tawfiq Salih Abu Kabruk delivered the message when President Saddam Husayn received him today.

'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and minister of defense; and Khalil 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, chief of the president's office, attended the meeting.

SADDAM RECEIVES PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN161821 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here this evening Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Khan and his delegation.

The Pakistani minister conveyed to President Saddam Husayn an oral message from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on Pakistan's friendship for Iraq and its desire to continue the traditional relations between the two countries.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, means to promote them in all fields, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, chief of the president's office; and the Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

The Pakistani foreign minister and his delegation arrived here yesterday on a visit of several days.

AR-RA'Y: PALESTINIANS SHOULD CONSIDER REAGAN PLAN

JN170730 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lest We Repeat our Mistakes," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: Undoubtedly, the political report read by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will engage great attention in the closed sessions of the Palestine National Council. The most prominent part of the report was the inherent rejection of President Reagan's plan. This rejection was based on the fact that the initiative ignored the PLO and regarded the Palestinian issue as a border dispute with Israel.

It may be recalled that nobody has said that the U.S. initiative is in line with the points included in the Fes summit resolutions. However, everybody knows that the U.S. initiative has the element of execution inherent in it. President Reagan has stressed the implementation of this element to carry out his plan. This, if applied, will lead to saving our land and people in the occupied territory. Thus it is amply clear that in the final analysis the power of implementation, rather than theoretical preferences, is important. Even if this power of implementation is doubtful, there is nothing to prevent us from putting it to the test. We have no interest in relieving the U.S. Administration of the task of proving its credibility.

AR-RA'Y adds: The Arabs' main mistake in the past was the lack of differentiation between making a decision and having the power to implement it. Therefore, we had many decisions which were theoretically sound but carried no power to put them into practice. The Arabs did not benefit from their theoretical stands, but Israel continued its practical hostile measures in devouring the land, Judaizing it, and expelling its inhabitants.

Everyone is aware that what we need is not a theoretical decision but the deliverence of our people and land across the River Jordan. Since the U.S. Administration claims that it can do so through the Reagan initiative, why cannot those concerned with the Palestinian cause put the U.S. claim to the test?

Concluding, AR-RA'Y says: The current difficulties faced by the Palestinian cause and the Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied territories cannot be helped by repeating our mistakes. It is hoped that the Palestine National Council will not relieve the U.S. Administration of proving its credibility. National and pan-Arab interests make it incumbent on the Palestinian leadership to deal with the current peace initiatives and help deliver our land and people across the river, because this deliverence is the only issue on which there can be no differences on the Arab level.

FRG MINISTER MOELLEMANN COMPLETES VISIT

Meeting With Hasan

JN161433 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this afternoon Juergen Moellemann, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Jordan. The two discussed the situation in the Middle East in general and the occupied Arab territories in particular. They also discussed means of promoting bilateral relations.

The FRG ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Talks With King

JN161900 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace this evening Juergen Moellemann, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the Arab-German Friendship Society. The two discussed developments in the situation in the region and means of promoting friendship and cooperation between the two countries to serve the interests of the Jordanian and German peoples.

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the FRG ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Moellemann Press Conference

JN170822 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Juergen Moellemann has praised Jordan's role, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, in serving peace efforts in the region. At a press conference yesterday, Moellemann said that the coordination steps currently taking place between Jordan and the PLO are an important factor in the peace efforts. He added that his country supports these efforts as well as U.S. President Reagan's plan. The Arab peace plan of the FES summit is also an essential step because it expresses Arab unanimity in support of the peace initiatives. He expressed the hope that these various initiatives would be brought closer to each other.

During his visit to Jordan, Moellemann said that he met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and senior Jordanian officials and discussed the methods to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the various fields. He said that he invited Crown Prince Hasan to visit FRG during the Arab-European dialogue conference which will be held in Hamburg on 11 April. He expressed hope that his highness would accept the invitation.

On the negotiations taking place in Lebanon, Moellemann confirmed his country's position, which calls for the withdrawal of the forces on Lebanese territory. He said that his country has often asked Israel to stop building settlements. He pointed out that building settlements jeopardizes peace opportunities in the region. He asserted that his country is committed to the Venice declaration, which called for recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Departs 17 February

JN171042 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Juergen Moellmann left Amman this morning after a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He also held talks with senior officials on developments in the region, the friendly relations between Jordan and the FRG, and ways of improving these relations.

16TH ROUND OF TALKS OPENS IN NETANYA 17 FEB

NC171017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at Dan Hotel in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Dan Netanya. The 16th round of talks in the tripartite negotiations opened this morning in Netanya amid clear Lebanese dissatisfaction with the latest moves and incidents that took place lately on the Lebanese territory and mainly in the capital, Beirut. The Lebanese side will try and insist on getting a straight answer from the Israeli delegation. The two subcommittees that are expected to meet this morning after the plenary session are termination of the state of war and withdrawals of foreign forces from Lebanon. This morning a rosy sheet, which is issued by the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the information division, was distributed to the press and the main subject examined in it is the official invitation by Israeli Premier Begin to King Husayn of Jordan to join the peace negotiations -- without preconditions, of course. Whether Husayn will respond or not, whether now or at a later stage, the peace process carried out at present with Lebanon will definitely remain the most conspicuous and major test of good will and peaceful intentions with our country. Until a further development occurs, we will keep in touch. To note finally that the subcommittee for the mutual relations will not be meeting today as Dr Kharma who heads this committee is absent on sick leave. This was the second correspondence from Dan Netanya from the official delegation of the Ministry of Information.

AL-JUMAYYIL, CABINET MEET ON ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC162006 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at 1800 today chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting, which ended a short while ago. Acting Cabinet Secretary General Shafiq Munayminah made the following official statement: The Cabinet held an ordinary meeting at 1800 tonight, Wednesday, 16 February 1983, under his Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers. At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the president briefed the Cabinet members on the atmosphere that accompanied the Army's move and deployment into the areas specified in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 10, dated 14 February 1983. It has been put on record that all quarters and people have shown a positive response and that various countries have been satisfied with this step and the way it is being implemented.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also spoke about this step in these historic days. He said: From my position of responsibility, I want to put on record special thanks to his excellency the president for the continuous personal efforts he has exerted to reach this result and follow up its implementation in a good way.

Then national Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri said: The Army's move was prompt and it deployed throughout all the areas specified for it. The Army has set up fixed posts and barriers and is running patrols. The Army is also ready to cover any other area. Our Army has demonstrated extraordinary discipline and ability.

The Cabinet then studied topics on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions, foremost of which are accepting the resignations of certain Internal Security Forces officers and rejecting others. The Cabinet decided to entrust the Information Director General, Radwan Mawlawi, with information tasks at the Foreign Ministry. He has been placed at the disposal of the foreign minister. Dr Munaf Mansur has been appointed as the Information Ministry director general. The Cabinet also decided to place the director general for refugees affairs, Yusuf Sabra, and the inspector general of the Internal Security Forces, Brigadier General Michel Abu Khalil, at the disposal of the interior minister in preparation for entrusting them with other tasks. The Cabinet put on record its appreciation of the efforts and services both officials made while working in their previous posts. The Cabinet decided to appoint Internal Security Forces Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman as director general of refugee affairs.

Fadi Afram on Deployment

NC161056 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] In a press conference held this morning, Lebanese Forces commander Fadi Afram said that the Command Council had decided to facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the eastern part [of Beirut] so as to bring about the success of the greater Beirut plan and the political decision. He said that it was wrong to compare the Army deployment in the eastern part with that of the western part because Army deployment in the eastern part is in a safe and peaceful area. During the war years, this area was the principal area for its commands, barracks, and training.

Afram added: Our political decision means that we, as Lebanese Forces, are natural allies of the Army and legitimacy so that peace and security can be maintained.

BEIRUT REPORTS ON SALIM'S PRESS CONFERENCE

NC161842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today revealed that there was an Israeli objection to the Lebanese Army's deployment in east Beirut on the pretext that this would change the status quo. Minister Salim also disclosed the details over the question of Sa'd Haddad in southern Lebanon, pointing out that this subject has been raised by Israel but that the report which said that an agreement has been reached on this matter is untrue.

Minister Salim was speaking at noon today in a press conference he held for foreign journalists in Lebanon to brief them on the facts of the situation. Minister Salim did not make any statement, but called on the journalists to ask any question about any subject they wanted clarified.

About the Lebanese Army's entry into east Beirut and Israel's stand on this, Minister Salim said: The Lebanese Army did not ask Israel's permission to enter an area that is considered not belonging to any other force. In accordance with the agreement reached in the summer between the Americans, the PLO, the Lebanese side, and the Israelis, it was decided to deploy the Lebanese Army in Beirut. Clause seven of the agreement provides for this. However, for certain reasons, the Army's deployment was delayed. When we decided on the Army's deployment on Monday, the Israelis heard of this and told us that we could not do so before coordinating with them and that they preferred that we not deploy the Army except after the meeting with them on Tuesday morning had taken place.

We told the Americans that Israel had nothing to do with this operation and that the Lebanese would not bar the road that is used by the Israelis, and on this basis, that the Lebanese Army would enter the area on Monday, after midnight, whether the others agreed or not.

We were told later that night that the Israelis objected and that we were not permitted to deploy our forces in East Beirut because that would change the status quo. Our reply was that Israel had nothing to do with this operation, which is a purely internal operation, and that the Lebanese Government must make decisions on areas that are under its control. Therefore, we would not ask the permission of any party that has nothing to do with the matter. On this basis, we asked the army to enter into Beirut on Monday night irrespective of any challenge it might encounter. Fortunately, the Army did not encounter any challenge.

Minister Salim added: In greater Beirut, where the Lebanese Army is deployed, the presence of any other military force, Lebanese, or otherwise, is not permitted except for the authorities that are present there legally through the Lebanese Government or in coordination with it -- that is, the Lebanese Army and the multinational force. No militias or any foreign forces are permitted to appear with their arms in greater Beirut where the Army is deployed. We are determined to apply this law strictly. We are determined to impose law and order while preserving liberties, but we will not allow liberty to interfere with order. This operation is the birth of a new Lebanon. Lebanon is operating under a new command, a new resolve, and a new democracy.

Regarding the question of Sa'd Haddad, Minister Salim said: The question of Sa'd Haddad is only one of 50 or 60 issues that are being discussed in the current negotiations by the tripartite committees. Israel has laid a number of conditions and the army of Sa'd Haddad is one of the conditions that is being discussed by the negotiating committee. Today I heard reports to the effect that there are special matters related to Sa'd Haddad in the negotiations. These reports are not true. The storm that arose overnight suggests that there is an agreement or that this issue is prominent among other issues. However, there is no justification for this storm and the matter is not true. Haddad's army or the Haddad issue is part of a general agreement, and no one can truly say that we have solved this problem and left the other problems hanging. As you are aware, we have not yet announced that any of the problems pending between Lebanon and Isreal has been resolved. As I have said, a list of about 50 problems raised by Israel has been drawn up. The Sa'd Haddad problem is only one of them.

Minister Salim said that Sa'd Haddad's army comprises 840 men and that attempts are being made with Israel's support to raise this number to 1,200. This army has no officers or any kind of logistical support.

It is merely an army of soldiers, but it does not have all the elements of a fighting force. For this reason, this army is regarded as a political issue, which the Israelis have raised with regard to the future of the south. The Sa'd Haddad issue is part of the Israeli problem and the problem of the relations between Israel and Lebanon in the future. Any report about discussions being held about the future of Sa'd Haddad and an agreement being reached on it is premature. The Lebanese Government does not negotiate publicly and the Sa'd Haddad issue is only one of 50 issues that are being discussed by the tripartite committees.

As for what will happen to Sa'd Haddad as a person, what will happen to the regular soldiers in his army and what will happen to the militias operating under his wing -- all these are matters which will be discussed and solutions reached to them as a part of the general agreement on which negotiations are taking place. When an agreement is signed in which the Lebanese, the Israelis, and the Americans participate, the Lebanese Army will be the only army in the south. There will be no other force, and there will be no Israeli forces remaining in southern Lebanon.

Minister Salim added: Lebanon will not accept anything other than an agreement which will ensure for it complete sovereignty and full authority in the south. We do not want to fall again into the pitfall of the militias and irregular forces. We committed a mistake in the past, and we do not want to make the same mistake in the future. The forces that will be in the south shall be the forces of the Lebanese Army, and no other force.

On Habib's mission and the way the talks are proceeding, Minister Salim said: Mr Habib is coming to us with proposals based on the decisions that have been reached in the committees and the subcommittees in the tripartite negotiation . You will be surprised how much progress on the subjects related to terminating the state of war, security measures, the framework for mutual relations, and the question of guarantees. We have made very good progress and have defined a number of concepts, dissipated a number of apprehensions, changed a number of exaggerated stands, and reduced a number of extreme demands. We can say that Israel now better understands Lebanon's stand. Likewise, Lebanon better understands Israel's apprehensions about Lebanon being used again as a base for operations against it.

The foreign minister added: With regard to the issues related to mutual relations, I admit that we are still facing problems. However, I believe that we might reach a formula according to which we will be able to defer the discussion of a number of matters pertaining to this issue. The important thing is ensuring Lebanon's independence and sovereignty so that this country may again return to normal. It is then that a Lebanon, which is enjoying a normal situation, will be in a stronger position to discuss with Israel the issues of the framework for mutual relations. Lebanon must now await the emergence of a suitable atmosphere in the area before it is able to move.

On the question of guarantees, Minister Salim said: We insist on Lebanon securing guarantees for its independence and for no further violation of its territory. Ours is the country which has lost 100,000 citizens; ours is the state whose towns and villages have been destroyed; ours is the state in which hundreds of thousands have become homeless. We want guarantees from the international community -- from the states participating in the multinational force or from any establishment that guarantees that Lebanon will never again be the fighting arena for the Middle East area. I believe that all the countries around Israel, as well as Israel itself, want guarantees. Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese -- all need international guarantees. I believe that we are passing through a phase in history that is similar to the 1862 [as heard] phase when the European council came and established order in this part of the world.

AL-WAZZAN COMMENTS ON MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS

NC161630 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The Cabinet is expected to deal with administrative affairs during its meeting this evening under President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil.

President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan held a meeting today and assessed the situation in greater Beirut in light of the expansion of the Lebanese Army's deployment area since dawn yesterday. After his meeting with the president, the prime minister emphasized that the Cabinet will meet this afternoon. He said that contacts are underway with the Americans to remedy some problems with the Israelis.

Replying to a question as to whether U.S. envoy Philip Habib has discussed with the authorities the question of reinstating Haddad and his army in the [Lebanese] Army, the prime minister said: We are receiving many proposals for resolving this issue. When things become clear, we will adopt the most suitable stand, and I point out that there is nothing definite at present. He explained that Habib has raised this subject on the basis that Haddad's issue will spring up as a problem when settling such unusual issues. He said that the Haddad question will be tackled like all the current subjects and that there are many proposals in this respect, but nothing definite so far.

Haddad, Al-Khatib Enter Al-Biqa'

JN161428 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] In a statement published today by the Lebanese press, Lebanese dissident Major Sa'd Haddad asserted that his forces had left for stations in the Al-Biqa' area. The newspaper AL-'AMAL, organ of the Lebanese Phalangist Party, said that another Lebanese dissident, Major Ahmad al-Khatib, who is backed by Syria, has started to concentrate his militias in Al-Biqa' and is preparing to extend his control in the area.

IDF REINFORCES POSITIONS; INCIDENT IN TRIPOLI

NC170748 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] In respect of the situation in 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf, it is reported that in 'Alayh normal life is returning but with caution. This is in accordance with the agreement reached recently.

In respect of Ash-Shuf, it is reported that the Israeli forces are deploying patrols and setting roadblocks and positions and that they are reinforcing these with barbed wire. This has caused anxiety among the people.

It is reported from the south that the Israeli army has reinforced its patrols in Sidon, Tyre, and in the Palestinian camps areas and that it has carried out a wide search campaign. The Israeli forces have also carried out maneuvers with live ammunition in the Khirbat Ruha plain in Al-Biqa'.

Meanwhile, a security report indicates that there have been armed manifestations in the villages of Al-Knaysah, 'Aynturah, Hammana, Qurnayil, Falugha, and Al-Mudayrij.

In Tripoli, an Internal Security Force patrol, deployed in the At-Tall area, saw two armed men in the street. The patrol warned them to lay down their arms, but they attempted to escape. One of them made a threat with a handgrenade, whereupon the patrol opened fire wounding them. The two men were moved to the Al-Mazlum hospital. It has been revealed that the two armed men are Palestinians, Ahmad Muhammad Muslih and Muhammad Shahin, whose condition is serious. A member of the patrol, Corporal Shawqi Qaddur, was wounded. Several cars in the area were damaged.

GOVERNMENT BEGINS REPAYING FOREIGN DEBTS

NC161920 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpp] Paris, Feb 16 (AFP) -- Syria has resumed a trickle of repayments on its big foreign debts following Draconian steps to tackle its serious money problems of the past year, reliable financial and banking sources said here today. Many foreign firms with interests here have been waiting for several months for overdue payments on foreign purchases totalling hundreds of millions of dollars.

The country's foreign debts soared from 232 million dollars in 1970 to 3.9 billion dollars at the end of 1981. Later figures are not available. European sources said that it was Syria's United States creditors which were showing the most nervousness over the payments delay.

The liberalisation of Syria's economy and the restoration of U.S.-Syrian relations in 1974 sent U.S. exports to Syria surging six-fold over the previous six years to 800 million Syrian pounds (about 160 million dollars) a year now. Analysts here said that the Central Bank's shortage of foreign exchange appeared to be the main problem hampering Syrian commercial banks, all of them nationalised.

DAMASCUS DAILY ON U.S. 'PLOT AGAINST ARABS'

JN170957 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA) -- The newspaper TISHRIN today affirms that Syria is determined to obstruct the peddling of the U.S. plot which aims at driving the Arab countries from the anti-Zionist trench, liquidating the Palestinian cause, and spreading U.S. hegemony in the region. The paper points out that the United States had succeeded in alienating Egypt's Arab affiliation and is now actively trying to impose the same fate on Jordan and Iraq. The U.S. attempts serve as a prologue to implement the new links of its comprehensive plot against the Arabs.

TISHRIN adds that the United States is no longer concealing its face as has always been the case when Israel crossed borders and committed venomous atrocities. The United States is now rejoicing with every new Israeli crime against the Arabs. TISHRIN explains that Syria, which is struggling to confront all contingencies, realizes that it is the target for all conspiracies in the coming stage because it rejects capitulation. Syria is also aware that the only way to subjugate Syria is with the use of the Israeli-U.S. military forces.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria may not be able now to beat off the aggressor, particularly while the strategic balance is upset. This, however, does not mean that the region will fall, for Syria, even under such circumstances, will not allow the peddling of the U.S. plot. Syria will rely on its intrinsic power, the Arab masses, and its loyal friends led by the Soviet Union to fend off the danger menacing the Arab cause.

AZ-ZU'BI RECEIVES PRC AMBASSADOR 16 FEB

JN161430 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus 16 Feb (SANA) -- People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi today received PRC Ambassador Lu Weizhao at the end of his term in Damascus. The two sides exchanged cordial speeches and stressed the need to promote bilateral relations in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

KNESSET DEFEATS THREE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS

TA161532 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1517 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Report from Knesset by Gil'ad Mishori -- live]

[Excerpts] One minute ago, the Knesset voted 64 against and 56 in favor, thus defeating three no-confidence motions; 64 votes of the coalition against 56 votes of the opposition -- a total of 120 Knesset members, meaning that no Knesset members were absent from the vote. This is a rare event and may be the first instance since the 10th Knesset was sworn in that all the Knesset members were present in the building.

Resolution Condemns Violence

TA161734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpt] With 62 votes of the coalition, the Knesset adopted a motion condemning the murder of Emil Grunzweig and denouncing any attempt to damage freedom of speech and the foundations of democracy. Fifty-six opposition members and National Religious Party [NRP] MK Avraham Melamed voted against the motion. Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor abstained to express his indignation about the fact that the opposition and the coalition did not manage to come up with a common motion, as called for by the dangers the nation is facing.

The Knesset also condemned any phenomenon of verbal and physical violence and called on all responsible elements to maintain law and order, to practically guarantee the freedom of speech within the framework of the law, and to take severe action against anyone who undermines it. The Knesset has called on the people to act in the spirit of Jewish tradition: Love your neighbor as yourself.

The draft resolution submitted by the opposition states that the Knesset believes Emil Grunzweig was murdered in the wake of a criminal attempt to harm freedom of speech and the foundations of democratic life. The Knesset notes with chagrin that the phenomena of physical violence emerging recently were noted in disturbances in rallies and demonstrations in a number of places in Israel. This violence, the opposition states, was directed against public figures who legally stood up to express an independent opinion on issues disputed with the government.

LEBANON TALKS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

TA161020 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0950 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] At the prime minister's office at the Knesset, a meeting of the steering committee for the negotiations with Lebanon ended a short while ago. The prime minister, Minister Yosef Burg, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and members of the Israeli delegation to the talks took part in the meeting. Minister Ari'el Sharon did not participate in the meeting.

The progress in the negotiations with Lebanon was reviewed for the steering committee and the disputed points in the areas of security arrangements and normalization were described. A cabinet source told our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel after the meeting that no decisions were made that change Israel's policy in the negotiations.

BEGIN, DEFENSE OFFICIALS, GENERAL STAFF TO MEET

TA151521 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin will hold meetings this week with members of the General Staff and with the senior staff of the Defense Ministry. Routine issues connected with IDF actions and the work of the ministry will be discussed. Issues connected with the personal appointments expected in the defense establishment also will be raised.

Since yesterday afternoon, Defense Ministry reports and reports from the General Staff have been given to the prime minister. The routine reports are being given to Begin in the situation room of the unit for national security headed by Major General Avraham Tamir.

The top echelons of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff yesterday expressed the hope that this unit, which was expanded by Minister Sharon, would be made smaller in the future. Many senior Defense Ministry officials say the national security unit duplicates work in many fields, both of the Defense Ministry and General Staff. A knowledgeable source told HA'ARETZ yesterday that he hopes this duplication will be stopped in the future.

HADDAD DISCUSSES ACTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON

TA161697 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] We entered Sidon and An-Nabatiyah with tanks as a legitimate army would have done. This was said by Major Sa'd Haddad today during a speech before the participants of the international terror seminar in Jerusalem. Haddad added that the terrorists who are beginning to return to West Beirut use the multinational force as a coverup for their activity. Our correspondent Yotam Yaqir reports:

[Begin recording] Immediately upon his arrival at the hotel in Jerusalem, Maj Haddad become prey to dozens of journalists and television teams. Especially after the entry of his forces into Sidon and An-Nabatiyah, Haddad has become a point of interest for the communications media.

[Haddad -- in English] You have to know that we have been in Sidon a long time before, and I don't know why now they are making such noise about it.

[Yaqir -- translates and adds] We entered An-Nabatiyah and Sidon with tanks, as a legitimate army would have, Haddad said, adding: We have always been in Sidon and I don't understand what all the fuss is about. Was there a secret agreement made between you and President al-Jumayyil so that you can take control of southern Lebanon? -- Haddad was asked, but refused to comment. He later said: I have, in fact, led southern Lebanon for 8 months now, but it doesn't matter who the leader is: The important issue is to find a final solution for the area's problem.

[Haddad -- in English] You know, now they have begun to use the multinational forces as a cover for them, as a curtain for their protection.

[Yaqir -- translates and adds] The terrorists are beginning to return to Beirut, Haddad said, and they use the multinational force to disguise their activity. Why were Palestinians killed in 'Ayn al-Hulway? -- he was asked. His response: We are not the only force in the region. We were there at the beginning, Haddad said, and left later, and now the Palestinians ask us to return to guarantee their safety. [end recording]

Further Report

TA161856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The head of the southern Lebanese forces, Major Sa'd Haddad, continued today to extend his army's positions. The south Lebanese Army unit entered the village of (Hushah Danibah), completing the deployment of Haddad's forces in the area. Haddad has also taken over command of the civil guard in 120 villages in southern Lebanon. Maj Haddad has rejected claims that he is forcing himself on the south Lebanese. He told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that many of the population, including Shi'ite Muslims who are in the majority, are joining the army and home guard units under his command. Haddad said he knows nothing of an agreement with the Lebanese Government regarding the militia activities in the future, but he is ready to cooperate with the authorities. The government is reportedly willing to reintegrate Haddad and his militiamen into the Lebanese Army, but Haddad told our reporter, the people of Lebanon must be the ones to safeguard their own security.

[Begin recording] [Haddad] I hope this government will be able to reestablish its sovereignty. We are going to help this government on this. We are not against it. We are for reestablishing the sovereignty and we are working for that.

[Ben-'Ami] What exactly does this mean? If the Lebanese Army wants into southern Lebanon, up to the border with Israel, what would you do about it? Where will you see your own place there?

[Haddad] We have the Lebanese army. We have a real Lebanese army that we are commanding. We did reorganize and we are making it acting, that's a real Lebanese army from the people of the south, believing in the cause of Lebanon, and that's a real Lebanese army. And if they want an army, we have already the Lebanese army on the ground, and everybody can go and see it. If the government will show good intentions we are ready to serve this government and to help this government.

[Ben-'Ami] What does good intentions mean?

[Haddad] Good intentions means to see all of Lebanon, to work for the liberation of all Lebanon, not a part of Lebanon, because until now, unfortunately, we hear that, everybody is talking about the IDF's withdrawal. Nobody is talking about the Syrian, the terrorists' withdrawal from the north and Al-Biqa'. What about them? We (?are reckoned) only for half of Lebanon or whole Lebanon? [end recording]

Maj Sa'd Haddad has said he wanted the central Lebanese Government to support good relations between Lebanon and Israel. The south Lebanese leader was in Jerusalem this afternoon to address an international conference on terrorism.

LEBANESE VERSION OF IDF INCIDENT DENIED

TA161823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Israeli military sources have denied the version carried by Beirut papers that soldiers in an IDF roadblock opened fire at a Lebanese car carrying unarmed passengers. The sources told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that yesterday, in the afternoon, a Renault approached an IDF roadblock, where there was also an armored personnel carrier, and terrorists opened fire at the soldiers from close range. The Israeli source returned the fire, the sources stated.

LEBANESE ARMY 'IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT'

TA160949 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Lebanon notes that the Lebanese Army's attempt to prevent the passage of an IDF patrol in east Beirut is in violation of an agreement allowing IDF soldiers to carry out undisturbed movement, in all of east Beirut, that is part of routine operational activity. When the Lebanese Army deployed yesterday in East Beirut, IDF commanders asked the commanders of that army to coordinate with them IDF forces' movement in the eastern part of the city. However, this request has not yet been complied with. After this morning's incident, the IDF spokesman stressed that the IDF does not intend to stop its patrols which are a routine part of security activity in the area.

IDF INCREASES SIDON PATROLS; WARNS PHALANGISTS

TA160737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The IDF in Sidon has increased patrols during the past few days in the city's mixed residential neighborhoods where Palestinian families live. Also Phalangist commanders in the Sidon and Jazzin areas have been warned against involvement in murders like those that occurred recently in those areas. So far, the murderers have not been found. But, our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that following the IDF's warning, the Phalangists arrested four suspects who are now being interrogated in Beirut. The commander of the Sidon sector said that the IDF is responsible for the security of the area's inhabitants but such cases cannot be completely stopped. He stressed that not only is the murder of Palestinians involved, various Lebanese groups are also involved in this as well as personal accounts settling.

'UNKNOWN NUMBER' OF LEBANESE DRUZE ARRESTED

TA170714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The IDF recently arrested an unknown number of Druze inhabitants of Lebanon. No official reason has been given for the arrests, but it is estimated that this is connected with security issues. Representatives of the Druze sect in Israel want all the detainees released and returned to their homes. Yo'el Dar reports:

The exact figure on the detainees is still unknown. Various sources have reported that most of them are inhabitants of the hamlet of 'Alayh and the Ash-Shuf hills and a minority of them live in the hamlet of Hasbayya. The detainees have been taken for interrogation to the Ansar camp.

Over the last few days, more than one delegation of notables from Lebanon has visited the home of Shaykh (Nur ad-Din Halabi), a member of the Druze religious court, and asked for his intervention. Shaykh (Halabi) says the Israeli authorities should release the detainees as soon as possible. The Druze qadi is convinced that this is a question of peace-loving citizens who have not and do not intend to damage the country's security. A request in this spirit has been passed on to the authorities who have promised to study it sympathetically. Reports reaching Shaykh (Nur ad-Din Halabi) say tension in the Ash-Shuf hills has eased over the last few days and there is now a reasonable chance of finding an arrangement that will put an end to the prolonged hostility between the Druze militia and the Phalangists.

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN TIES, LEBANON BORDERS

TA170720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has accused elements interested in wars and instability of foiling the moves for peace between Israel and Lebanon. In a speech to the Lawyers Bureau in Jerusalem, Minister Shamir condemned the hostility in Israel-Egyptian relations. He also spoke about Israel's vital need for broad security borders to safeguard our firmness during the Middle East upheavals. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports on Minister Shamir's remarks:

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Shamir dealt with the expected and desirable peace with Lebanon. Because of the difficulty peace would impose on Lebanon in its relations with the Arab countries, Israel would be satisfied with cooperation and open borders. But, there are people in the West who do not agree with this state of relations.

[Begin Shamir recording] I regret to have to say this. However, we have the impression that, contrary to what has been said and declared many times, in the spirit of the well-known slogan, territories in return for peace, withdrawal from territories is a means to achieve peace, it seems to me that the truth is that peace is a means to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from territories. And when there is nowhere to retreat from, as is happening in Lebanon, then there is no interest in peace. [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] As for relations with Egypt, the foreign minister said the relations are purely formal, despite the 50 contractual treaties between the two countries. The borders are open, Yitzhaq Shamir said, but only in one direction.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is a contractual commitment to refrain from hostile propaganda. However, there is no day when there are no venemous attacks and slanders against Israel and even against the Jewish people and the Jewish religion in the Egyptian media. [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] There are people in the West who are understanding toward this phenomenon of Egypt's moving away from the track of Camp David because, in their opinion, Egypt must go back to being integrated in the Arab world and this necessity will not be condemned, the foreign minister said, even when it is implemented at the expense of its peaceful relations with Israel. Therefore, Israel must face up to the enormous pressures in our area. We must be patient, persistent, and united.

[Begin Shamir recording] In the shifting sands of the Arab desert that surrounds us, there will always be ups and downs. The peaceful relations to be established will be exposed to pressures and the influence of the reality around us from near and far. Therefore, we will always need broad security borders.... [interrupted] [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] ...and so we must overcome the temptation of self-hatred, unite further, unify further, and strengthen ourselves, for there is no other way.

AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH EGYPT'S 'ALI 15 FEB

TA161545 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 83 p 8

[Report by correspondent in Cairo Smadar Peri and from the north by Yehezqel Hame'iri]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said there is danger that an additional massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon could occur, this time in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon. 'Ali is believed to have said this following the discovery of the 17 bodies of Palestinians in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah vicinity.

Minister 'Ali yesterday conferred in his office with Israeli Ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sason. In their meeting, issues pertaining to Israeli-Egyptian ties and the situation in Lebanon were discussed. Ambassador Sason expressed regrets about a statement 'Ali made 2 days ago before the parliament in Cairo, in which he urged the Palestinians to tighten the political noose around Israel so as to prevent it from "digesting" the entire West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Among the 17 bodies found in the last few weeks in the 'Ayn al-Hulway refugee camp near Sidon were also bodies of people suspected by neighbors of collaboration with Israel. This was reported by Israeli sources. The sources emphasized that this conflicts with the charges that the bodies were victims of Phalangist killings, who massacred the Palestinian inhabitants of 'Ayn al-Hulway. According to Israeli sources, the dead must have been murdered as a result of local acts of revenge, both against a political and a criminal background.

HA'ARETZ NOTES EGYPTIAN COMMENTS IN ALGIERS

TA170853 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Feb 83 p 1

[Excerpt] It is to be expected that sooner or later there will be an unavoidable confrontation between Egypt and Israel. A stop to the normalization of relations and the Tabah issue are just symptoms of this. All the more, the stranglehold of Camp David is becoming tighter following the gradual renewal of Cairo's relations with the Arab world. This was stated yesterday by the leaders of the Egyptian delegation to the PLO council in Algiers to 'Arafat and his colleagues at a closed session.

Details of the contents of the talk were reported last night to Arab correspondents in Algiers, including the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent. The Egyptian delegation, which is the largest with 80 people, includes members of the former Revolutionary Council, two previous foreign ministers and a deputy prime minister, and leaders of the opposition parties.

U.S.-EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION VIEWED

TA161115 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 83 p 3

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] The tension in Israeli-U.S. relations is apparently instrumental in turning Egypt into a U.S. intelligence center in the Middle East. The tight cooperation between U.S. intelligence elements and the Egyptian defense establishment is causing concern in Israel.

Israeli sources have said that a significant rise in the number of U.S. advisers and "researchers" in Egypt has recently been marked. This is normally indicative of stepped up efforts in the intelligence sphere. Several Eygptian newspapers recently published articles in which criticism and fear were voiced at the growing U.S. involvement in what happens in Egypt. One paper went as far as describing the activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Egypt as a "shadow government," designed to permeate each and every Egyptian field.

The U.S. intelligence activity in Egypt also was discussed by the U.S. press. The microwave system news periodical, which deals with defense activity as well as U.S. activity in Egypt, is one example. Observers view this activity as the direct result of the U.S. Administration's growing impatience with Israel's policy.

Sources in Israel said yesterday that the stepped up presence of U.S. Government agency employees in Egypt can easily serve as a basis for turning this country into an intelligence center which will coordinate the collection of intelligence information throughout the region with the help of special sophisticated facilities that will be set up for this purpose.

HATZOFE ON U.S.-ISRAELI STRATEGIC MEMORANDUM

TA161058 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] Observers in Jerusalem believe the strategic memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States, signed and subsequently revoked or suspended by the Americans, will not become topical in discussions between two countries again because of Israel's reservations regarding the agreement. The reservations took shape when it emerged that the United States was using the memorandum as an instrument to pressure Israel rather than as a means for military aid.

Israel, therefore, believes the memorandum is more likely to impede and interfere than to be helpful.

The memorandum was seen at the time as Sharon's greatest achievement. Later its value was doubtful in view of the fact that Israel was prepared to furnish the United States with information regarding the lessons it learned from the war, whereas the United States was not ready to report to Israel on the results of its analyses of these lessons.

Ari'el Sharon will establish his new office in east Jerusalem, in the building where Housing Minister David Levi's office is, which was originally slated for the prime minister's office.

As for Minister Sharon's activity in the Cabinet from now on, HATZOFE has learned from sources in Jerusalem that this matter is up to the prime minister.

INCREASED GUARD PLACED ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

TA161530 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 16 Feb 83 p 4

[From "Outloook" column]

[Text] An increased guard has been placed on Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. His aides are exercising extreme caution when coming out of the minister's office.

SHARON DENIES GRANTING INTERVIEW TO LE MATIN

TA160728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Minister Sharon denied this morning that he had granted an interview to the Paris newspaper Le MATIN. This was reported by his advisor Uri Dan.

According to the interview, which appears in today's edition of the Paris paper, Sharon said he stayed in the Cabinet to promote the cause of Eretz Yisra'el. He is cited as claiming that the fact that he is staying in the Cabinet is politically important and that a government with Sharon is not like a government without Sharon. As stated, the minister denies granting such an interview. However, LE MATIN notes at the beginning of the interview that it is an exclusive interview granted to the newspaper's Jerusalem correspondent, Shalom Kohen. The talk between them was held on Monday night at the Knesset, after the discussion in the plenum.

CONTACTS INCREASING ON NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

TA161227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Contacts between the Alignment and the coalition to set up a national unity government are increasing. Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that the meetings on this matter between figures of the two camps are proliferating. It is conjectured in the Labor Party that if MK's Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin propose to the party center to agree to the establishment of such a government, the center will accept the proposal.

Our correspondent notes that Rabin supports setting up a national unity government, while Peres is in effect waiting for Prime Minister Menahem Begin to appeal for its establishment. However, many Alignment Knesset members oppose a national unity government.

President Yitzhaq Navon has said that he will not continue trying to get a national unity government established. He explained to our correspondent Me'ir Einstein that he has realized that for the time being the parties are not ready to set up such a government.

Meanwhile, Liberal Minister Gid'on Pat opposes the establishment of a unity government. He told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that at present the Alignment is in a slump and the Likud has a sure lead. Therefore, there is no reason to share the government with the Alignment. On another matter, Pat said that a sixth minister would soon be appointed from among the Liberals and that he would be a minister without portfolio.

Begin Position Noted

TA161359 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1350 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister will not contemplate an initiative to establish a national unity government as long as the Alignment does not annul its previous decision against the formation of such a government, elements close to the prime minister told our political correspondent 'Oz Frenkel. These elements point out that the prime minister has made several calls for the establishment of a national unity government, but his appeal was not heeded. According to Mr Begin's associates, the initiative for the formation of such a government should now come from the Alignment rather than from the Likud leaders.

15 NEW WEST BANK FOOTHOLDS TO BE ESTABLISHED

TA170626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] About 15 footholds are to be established during the coming year in the territory of Judaea, Samaria, and south of the Hebron Hills. These footholds are planned to turn into a base for civilian settlements. Here is our correspondent on settlement affairs, Shalom Oren:

The planned footholds will be established throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the southern Hebron Hills in sites that control the surrounding area where there is no Jewish presence yet. Like the observation points in Galilee, they will guarantee control over state land which is intended to be used, and in the future will be used, to establish civilian settlements there. These footholds will fill certain holds that still exist in several areas of the territories beyond the green line. The new footholds plan is part of the 100,000 plan for settlement in Judaea and Samaria and the footholds are planned in a form that will permit a rapid change into permanent settlements without an additional budget and without any changes in planning. There is already a budget for the 15 footholds and, in a common tour by the Defense Ministry and the settlement department several weeks ago, the exact sites for the footholds were determined. Their establishment is awaiting final approval by the government ministries involved. The establishment of the footholds will begin in another 2 months with the beginning of the next budgetary year and the intention is that these military footholds will rapidly turn into civilian settlements in every way.

WEST BANK PLO ACTIVISTS SAID GETTING NEW WEAPONS

TA170942 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Feb 83 p 7

[Report by Gabi Brun]

[Excerpt] Security forces view the phenomenon of the renewed use of weapons against Israeli citizens in Judaea and Samaria with great gravity.

According to assessments, PLO activists in the West Bank recently received shipments of weapons and ammunition of various types to increase their activity before April, the date set for the autonomy talks. There are about 200 people suspected of throwing stones and taking part in other violent acts still being detained; some of them will be tried within the next few days.

At the same time, organization by inhabitants of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria to defend themselves is continuing more vigorously and for other deterrent actions in the event of a continuation of hostile actions being taken against Israeli citizens in the area. Over the last 2 days, several meetings of activists from the various settlements have been held and common action has been formulated.

ALGERIA

OFFICIAL DENIES COUP RUMORS, CONDEMNS BEN BELLA

PM161129 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Reports by Ahmad ad-Dus in Jidda and 'Ali ash-Shubashi in Paris: "An Algerian Official in Telephone Conversation With 'UKAZ: The Situation in Algeria Is Stable and Rumors Are Unfounded"]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with 'UKAZ, responsible Algerian sources in the presidential palace have emphasized that the situation in Algeria is stable. They denied rumors about a coup attempt or an arrest campaign in the military sector.

Explaining the situation, an Algerian official said that the rumors coincided with a purge campaign carried out some time ago by the Algerian Government and that rumors about an imaginary plot were disseminated by tendentious people in a sinister campaign whose objectives are clear to everyone. He added that the rumormongers even claimed that a number of officers and politicians were detained, and linked them to a plot which existed only in their minds, and that some papers tried to create confusion.

Affirming that the situation in Algeria is stable, the Algerian official said that the time has come to explain that the best conditions prevail in Algeria. He added that the purge process at home has led to a reorganization and put an end to the unethical practices. It has also organized the economy on a sound and objective basis and strengthened the principle of firmness in administrative responsibility, he said.

He also pointed out that the internal purge process has revealed numerous wrong practices harmful to the interests of the homeland and the public. The Algerian official stressed that the officers the rumors mentioned are doing their work as usual, which refutes these rumors. He denied any Cabinet changes. The Algerian official condemned statements made by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella. He pointed out that it was not a coincidence that a former official doubled the tendentious rumors spread by Algeria's enemies. He emphasized that since his release and since he took up residence abroad Ben Bella has devoted all his time to making flagrant distortions to undermine his country's reputation.

He noted that the relationship between the former Algerian president and the forces hostile to Algeria was obvious, and that the aim was to work against Algeria.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ON U.S. SIXTH FLEET ACTIVITIES

LD171351 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at meeting of General People's Congress in Tripoli -- live]

[Excerpt] At dawn today the United States sent a unit from the American 6th Fleet in the direction of Libyan shores. It has also sent spy planes, four AWACS planes to Egypt.

The entire world has been saying that the American naval units were sailing toward the Libyan shores for some specific reason. The American President found it necessary to hold a press conference and to deny that any naval units had been ordered to move toward Libyan shores.

However, he admitted that he ordered the AWACS planes to proceed to Egypt because of American-Egyptian joint maneuvers.

By saying this I mean to show that you have to defend yourselves. This is a matter of necessity because of the challenges that exist, whether you like it or not. None of us has been the cause of it. All we are doing is trying to live freely and work to unify the nation. We do not seek to colonize America. (?All we want is for) America not to colonize us.

Have we massacred the Israelis in Germany or anywhere else -- or in Russia -- so that they come and massacre us? Let them go slaughter the West Germans or anyone else who massacred them. We Arabs did not massacre them. The eastern Jews have been living with us as brothers for 4,000 years. Let them go to Europe, which caused the massacres, and set up a state for themselves in East Germany, a state for all Jews, to avenge Hitler, for example.

[Words indistinct] to establish a Zionist stage in the Arab homeland. They said there is nowhere else to establish their state. They drive the people out, colonize their land, and massacre them.

Is this something we caused or provoked? Did we ask the world to bring the Israelis to set up a state in our midst to destroy us? Did we ask America to supply Israel with destructive weapons so that the Israelis could use them to destroy us? We are refugees (?and have no arms) but it freely gives them arms.

Did we go to the gulf of (?Houston) in America and interfere there? Or was it the United States that came to the Gulf of Sidra, inside Libyan territory, between Misratah and Banghazi? [Words indistinct] anyone who enters the Gulf of Sidra will have Misratah and Banghazi behind him. He enters Libyan territory. Anyone who enters the sea actually enters the land. If America enters the Gulf of Sidra that means it is entering Libya. But we would not allow it to do so. [Words indistinct] to enter the Gulf of Sidra, only America which is a foreign power. [applause] We will not allow any foreign power to enter it.

GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS RALLY BEGINS 12 FEB

LD121514 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The General People's Congress -- The rally of the popular congresses, popular committees, unions, trade unions, and vocational leagues -- began its eighth ordinary session this morning at the people's hall in Tripoli to collate and redraft the resolutions submitted by the third ordinary sessions of the Basic People's Congresses for 1983. The opening session was attended by delegations from fraternal Syria, Tunisia, and the SDAR, as well as by the secretaries of the fraternal bureaus and of the people's bureaus abroad and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Jamahiriyah.

The brother secretary of the General People's Congress opened the session with a speech in which he affirmed that the mass attendance of the meetings of the Basic People's Congresses, which lasted for a whole month, constitutes proof of the people's faith in the authority of the people and in the thoughts of the commander thinker Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He pointed out that the meeting is being held to draft resolutions based on those adopted by the masses of the Basic People's Congresses during their month of meetings -- a process which epitomizes the idea of popular authority. He said that we teach the world around us how democracy can be practiced directly through true exercise of the people's authority.

He pointed out that all those who have come to our country and shared the exerpeince have affirmed their praise for it and for the fact that this was the first time any people have exercised direct democracy.

He greeted the fraternal delegations that have come to attend meetings of the current session of the General People's Congress: the delegations of Syria, Tunisia, and the SDAR.

After the brother secretary general of the General People's Congress concluded his speech, the meeting began to review the agenda. The first item dealt with a review of the resolutions adopted by the Basic People's Congresses which had been drafted by the General People's Congress for the year 1982. One hundred fourteen basic congresses expressed satisfaction with what has been implemented so far and conveyed the remarks of their congresses. The congress also heard the remarks made by the general students congress.

Following a recess, the meeting began to discuss paragraph two of item one of the agenda which deals with following up the development budget and the administrative budget for 1982.

The morning session adjourned at 1330 and will be resumed at 1700.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Session

LD141228 Tripoli JANA in English 1004 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' Thani 30, Feb 14, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) -- The revolution's leader yesterday attended part of the evening session of the General People's Congress and listened to the comments of some Basic People's Congresses on the article regarding reviewing general people's committees without referring to the congresses.

Moreover, stemming from his role as agitator for the exercise of people's authority, the leader made some comments and clarifications on the article.

The leader said decisions are made by Basic People's Congresses which have authority. They alone can decide, whereas people's committees implement the congresses' resolutions.

The leader pointed to the warning that was spelled out during the fourth conference of revolutionary committees that if the people's congresses do not exercise authority, then this will encourage, even impel, the committees to exercise authority. This cannot be...

He said the interpretation that affirms people's authority and explains the relationship between people's committees and congresses should always be remembered by the people's congresses in all circumstances.

The leader said the basis of people's authority is that people's committees have no right to arrive at any decisions. Their only prerogative is to implement the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses.

The leader said some decisions made by people's committees are not legal and do not come as part of their prerogatives. In this respect, he pointed to the decision of stopping car imports, raising electricity prices, including patients seeking medical (?treatment) abroad on public expense without referring to medical committees, [word indistinct] contracting by establishments, and abolishing consumer societies.

Speaks on Foreign Policy

LD161947 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 4, Feb 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The revolution's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, attended part of this morning's meeting of the General People's Congress. He listened to the comments made by a number of Basic People's Congresses regarding the agenda's fourth article on the Jamahiriyah's foreign policy during 1982.

As part of his guidance and agitation role in the practice of people's authority and its entrenchment, the leader noted in his contributions that the Basic People's Congresses should have assessed their 1982 decisions on foreign policy and what has been applied of those decisions.

He said, "During the BPC's discussions, I did not note any review of their decisions on foreign policy which should have been followed by the people's Foreign Liaison Bureau, so as the BPC's are able to assess what has been implemented of their decisions.

I fear that there might not be a clear foreign policy for 1983 which is drawn by the Libyan Arab people and adopted and carried out by the people's Foreign Liaison Bureau, and so as by the end of the year the people's congresses know what has and hasn't been implemented of their decisions and the reasons which prevented implementation".

The leader also noted that the "formulations arrived at appear to be relatively general and resemble recommendations issued by a non-responsible congress". He stressed that the people's congresses in Libya "are responsible for deciding the country's policy".

He added, "The people's congresses did not arrive at a formulation according to which a clear foreign policy could be drawn. This could be due to the question of consciousness".

The leader expressed his fear that the people's Bureau of Foreign Liaison might not be able to know the policy drawn up for 1983 by the Libyan people concerning the relations with each individual country.

He added that any failure in carrying out the foreign policy will be the responsibility of the people's congresses which are the only decision making body. The congresses should look into the Jamahiriyah's relations with each country and the decision should be carried out by the people's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

"The Basic People's Congresses should, for instance specify the foreign aid which the Foreign Liaison Bureau could spend during 1983. It can then be questioned if it exceeded its limit. But it can also move within these limits in case of an emergency". The leader added that during 1982 some countries took a negative attitude towards the Jamahiriyah. Our relations towards these countries should be clearly decided because we have the means to punish them and reward those countries who took positive stands towards us and stood on our side".

He went on to say "the people's Bureau of Foreign Liaison will brief the people's congresses of its 1983 activities, step by step. If it carried out certain activities on foreign policy, this should be recorded by the congresses' secretariats and put before the basic people's congresses meeting by the end of the year. This of course would mean that the congresses' secretariats can by themselves explain to the BPC's masses the different activities without referring to the Foreign Liaison Bureau".

He concluded by saying, "These are the broad lines within which you can manoeuvre but of course at the end of the congress this can be rephrased in a much clearer way".

SOMALIA

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES 'HUGE RALLY' IN HARGEISA

EA151345 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Excerpt] A huge rally in support of the historic decision to grant an amnesty to persons who have committed crimes against the nation made by SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre on 13 February took place this morning at the 21 October Square in Hargeisa. The hundreds of thousands who attended the rally included the region's leaders, social organizations, members of the armed forces, and residents of Hargeisa. The rally was preceded by a march through the streets of Hargeisa with people carrying flags and placards to display their support for the decision.

In a significant speech, Somali President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre expressed his gratitude to the people of that region for their warm and patriotic welcome. This was a clear indication of the [word indistinct] and deep sincerity of the people of the northwest region, he said. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said the rally was a clear manifestation of the unity and solidarity of the Somali people in the region, and of their cooperation and nationalism.

He urged the officials and people in the region to be on the lookout for enemies, to differentiate between friends and foes, and to carry out the development of the region and society in unity. Challe Siad pointed out that all successes scored since the birth of the revolution are a result of cooperation and concerted efforts by the people, and there is a need to strengthen these efforts and unity in order to achieve greater successes.

UGANDA

OBOTE TALKS WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR REPORTED

EA141356 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] President Apollo Milton Obote yesterday reiterated Uganda's support for the total independence of Namibia and further stressed that Uganda rejects the (?question) of Namibian independence being linked with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola. The president stated this at a state reception held in honor of the UN secretary general, H.E. Perez de Cuellar, who is visiting Uganda.

Dr Obote further stated that Uganda will continue to condemn the inhuman practices of apartheid. Ugandans shall stand with our brothers and sisters in the entire continent of Africa to call for fundamental changes within South Africa.

The president called upon big powers, particularly those who have contact with South Africa, to exercise pressure on southern [as heard] Africa to desist from destabilizing frontline and other African states. This [word indistinct], he said, brings bloodshed and untold suffering to millions of people.

On the world economic situation, Dr Obote said that the deteriorating state of the economy is no longer applicable to the Third World countries only, nor are the remedies to be found in dictating (?ready package) terms to the Third World countries. He emphasized that the state of the world economy underlines more than ever the need to launch now the global round of negotiations on international economic cooperation for development. The world needs a truly concerted and global effort to redress the present situation. In this regard Uganda will continue to do everything to cooperate with the United Nations and the rest of the international community.

On the issue of nuclear armaments and disarmament, the president said that Africa would suffer with the arms race as well as the rest of the world. He stated that Africa is already suffering from powerful conventional arms which are in the hands of the racist regime of South Africa.

Earlier, in welcoming the secretary general and his delegation to Uganda, the president said the secretary general could not have chosen a better country in Africa to wind up his first tour, which the president believes has given Mr Perez de Cuellar an insight of the challenging problems of underdevelopment in this part of the world.

He said the pearl of Africa shares in full those problems not only with the rest of Africa but also with the Third World countries. In briefing the secretary general about the situation in Uganda the president stated that the country had earned negative publicity from 1971 up to the time of liberation in 1979 throughout the world. He was happy to say that during the past 2 years, government [words indistinct] to resolve problems such as are peculiar to Uganda. He added that today Uganda faces the same problems and challenges as any other country in Africa and that the differences are only in degree.

The achievements of the past two years, he said, were made possible because of the correctness of our policies and efforts and through the assistance Uganda receives from friendly countries, international organizations including the UN agencies. Dr Obote noted that for 10 years beginning in 1971, though Uganda remained a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and such organizations as the World Bank and the IMF, this membership was only nominal and the people of Uganda received no direct support out of it for the betterment of life in Uganda. The reason for this, he said, was well known -- mainly that the Uganda regime then was following policies which had the effect of taking Uganda, so to speak, out of the human race. Today the reverse is the case, the president stated.

Uganda now has a government that strongly believes in the rule of law and full enjoyment of human rights. This government, he expressed, is acutely interested in the community of nations, the unity of Africa, the Nonaligned Movement, and the continued existence and strength of the United Nations, and, above all, believes in good-neighborly relations with our neighbors.

The president further stressed that Uganda now has a government that is fully committed to do everything possible to give Ugandans leadership and a sense of direction so as to enable the people of Uganda to lift themselves out of poverty and circumstances which made the country to be classified as one of the least developed in the world. We do not ask the international community to treat us as a special case, but we ask the international community to recognize that for 10 years. while other countries received support from that community, Uganda received virtually nothing, the president reported. Uganda, therefore, feels there is a case to give her a helping hand.

Mr Obote paid very special and well-deserved tribute to the secretary general for the efforts he has been making since his election to advance the cause of international peace, security, and development.

The president added that Uganda appreciates his efforts during the course of this past year to resolve complex and sensitive international conflicts. He said that Uganda would do everything in cooperation with other countries to strengthen the hand of the secretary general and the United Nations in their mission of peace, security, and development.

In his reply the secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, stated that his visit to southern Africa has enabled him to exchange views with many African leaders on a wide spectrum of issues pertaining to that region, which are among the chief preoccupations of the United Nations.

On Namibia the secretary general said that while there is a universal agreement over the goal of self-determination and independence for Namibia, it is most unfortunate that issues extraneous to Namibia's independence have been injected into negotiating processes. It is imperative, he noted, that he persevere in the quest for a negotiated settlement within the terms of the UN plans laid down by the Security Council.

He went on to say that settling the Namibian question would considerably brighten the prospects for dealing with other issues which are jeopardizing the chances for peace and regional cooperation, namely apartheid and policies directed at destabilizing the economies of member states in the South African region.

Mr Perez de Cuellar noted that Africa, which has immense potentiality, has reached a truly crucial point in its affairs. In addition to its national endowments, he went on, its people have a vitality, dignity, and a rich diversity of cultures and heritage which should enable them to have a happy future.

He noted that the challenge is to give African fraternity a concrete political and economic context. African nations, he added, displayed an enviable resolve, energy, and idealism in liberating themselves from colonial rule. These same qualities are called for in meeting the equally great challenges of strengthening their political unity and removing the shackles of underdevelopment. He was confident that wide counsel will end current divisions and lay the foundations for meaningful and effective cooperation. Africa, he stressed, has the capacity to meet the challenge of our times.

Earlier, commenting on the exchange of views he has had with the Uganda leadership, he said they have been of great value to him in developing a better understanding of the situation in Uganda.

The secretary general stated that all nations, large and small, have a part to play in the work of the United Nations and he was grateful for the government's valuable support and contribution in the efforts to promote peace and international understanding. He commended Uganda's representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Olara Otunnu, who, he said, is playing an outstanding role in the organization. He said Ambassador Otunnu showed great diplomatic skills as a representative of Uganda on the Security Council, and he is now, at the request of the president of the General Assembly, involved in highly sensitive discussions to facilitate agreements on the launching of global negotiations.

The secretary general said that he is aware of the acute problems of reconstruction and reconciliation faced by Uganda and the difficulties being encountered to solve them. He promised that the United Nations will continue to do whatever it can to help the government in this direction, and that the positive interest which is being taken in Uganda by the international community will result in additional economic assistance to rebuild her shattered economy. He said that Uganda has got a considerable economic potential, and through the utilization of the resourcefulness and challenge of her people the country can be assured of a bright and prosperous future.

Commenting on the refugee situation in Africa the secretary general happily noted that in keeping with African traditions Uganda was foremost among the nations of Africa to open its doors to refugees. In this regard he assured that the United Nations would do everything possible to help Uganda to cope with its humanitarian problems.

He further stated that while it is important that everything possible be done to provide for the basic humanitarian needs of refugees in Africa, it is equally important that attention is directed towards finding suitable solutions to these problems.

Earlier, on arrival at Entebbe Airport, Mr Perez de Cuellar, his wife and the rest of his delegation were met by the prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, ministers and dignitaries.

Later, Mr Perez de Cuellar attended a luncheon hosted in their honour by the prime minister, Mr Otema Alimadi, after which he held discussions with President Apollo Milton Obote.

UN Secretary General Comments

EA141834 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, who has been on a 2-day state visit to Uganda, has left for Geneva [as heard] full of praise for President Obote, the Ugandan leadership, and the people of Uganda in their efforts to rebuild the country.

Before leaving for Geneva the UN chief held a press conference at Entebbe International Airport. He told the conference that he had very fruitful discussions with President Apollo Milton Obote, Vice President Paulo Muwanga, Prime Minister Erifasi Otema Alimadi, and the Uganda Cabinet ministers.

Speaking about the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts Uganda is making today, Mr Perez de Cuellar noted that Uganda had been isolated for many years. The country today deserved the full cooperation of the UN and the international community, he added.

The UN secretary general expressed optimism of Uganda's early economic recovery under President Obote, whom he described as a most distinguished leader.

On refugee problems, Mr Perez de Cuellar said he had had very useful discussions with President Obote on the Rwandese refugee problems. Dr Obote, the secretary general stated, was most understanding and flexible in this matter, which had been used to distort the image of Uganda. The secretary general announced that he was leaving behind the undersecretary general for special political affairs, Mr Abdulrahim Farah, who would take the quickest means to the Republic of Rwanda to follow up the basis of the understanding that the President of Uganda exhibited in the matter. [sentence as heard]

Talking on the Namibian independence, Mr Perez de Cuellar said he was aware of the urgency of accelerating Namibian independence. He said while winding up his tour of the African states he was impressed by the unanimity of views on the implementation of UN resolutions and the independence of Namibia.

On the issue of Cuban troops in Angola, Mr Perez de Cuellar said: I cannot accept the linkage of Cuban troops in Angola with the Namibian independence. He said the matter of Namibia's independence is a different issue which must not be encumbered by the question of withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

On the question of the OAU, the UN secretary general said that although the divisions in the OAU have caused anxiety, he was confident that the African leaders will resolve to strengthen the organization.

The secretary-general expressed profound gratitude to President Obote, the Uganda Government, and the people of Uganda for the most warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation.

Mr Perez de Cuellar was introduced to the press conference by the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr David Anyoti.

To see the UN secretary general off at Entebbe Airport was Vice President Paulo Muwanga, Cabinet ministers, and high-ranking government officials. The Uganda permanent representative to the UN, Mr Olara Otunnu, also left with the secretary general for Geneva. Ambassador Olara Otunnu is the current chairman of the UN Commission for Human Rights, which is currently meeting in Geneva.

ZAIRE

'SECRET AGREEMENTS' WITH ISRAEL REPORTED

EA160052 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Well-informed sources have disclosed that Zaire signed a series of secret agreements with the Zionist regime of Israel during the visit to Kinshasha by the Israeli defense minister, Ari'el Sharon. The secret agreements, which have also been approved by the United States and the Pretoria regime, provide for the dispatch of 6,000 Israeli soldiers to Zaire. This contingent will establish a U.S.-Israeli base with the participation of the South African racist regime.

The same sources also said that the secret agreements provide for the establishment in Kinshasha of a regional office of the Israeli intelligence services, Mosad.

MOBUTU SPEECH AT DINNER FOR CEPGL HEADS

AB151826 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1534 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Speech by Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, current chairman of Economic Community of Countries of Great Lakes [CEPGL], during dinner held in honor of participants at sixth ordinary session of heads of state conference of CEPGL in Gbadolite -- date not given]

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 Feb (AZAP) -- Your Excellency Mr President of the Republic of Burundi and chairman of the National Unity and Progress Party, Your Excellency Mr President of the Rwandan Republic, founding chairman of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development, Your Excellency Mr President of the CAR and current chairman of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, honorable ministers and state commissioners, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, citizens:

On behalf of militants of the Popular Movement of the Revolution and on my own behalf, I would like to seize the lucky opportunity that this evening's dinner, held to mark the heads of state summit of the CEPGL, affords me to renew my warm wishes of welcome to Gbadolite to our distinguished guests, Their Excellencies Presidents Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of the Republic of Burundi, Habyarimana Juvenal of the Rwandan Republic, Andre Kolingba of the CAR, and their delegations.

I would like our distinguished guests to feel really at home and I would like to thank them in a friendly manner for accepting to partake with us this evening's brotherly meal.

As I said at the beginning of our meeting, it is the sixth time that we have met since our community became a living reality. Today's meeting falls within the framework of our common commitment to strengthen understanding between our people and cooperation between our states with the goal of consolidating brotherhood and solidarity integrated within a wider union which transcends our various characteristics.

With our experience, we are more than ever convinced that the creation of regional economic groups is an objective approach and a realistic foundation for African unity and that it constitutes a further stage in the concrete search for appropriate solutions to our common problems.

This is true more especially in the context of a world economy in crisis, marked by a total absence of stable parameters, the constant increases in fuel prices, generalized inflation, the maladjustment of the balance of payments of a large number of countries, the investment crisis, the unprecedented indebtedness of developing countries, and many other ills.

It is precisely in moments of crisis such as the one the world is experiencing now -- a world in which history does not seem to have an aim -- that very important choices are open to people and to men who want to make history in the well-understood interest of their people instead of being dominated by it.

Upon analysis of the issue one becomes aware of the following fact: neo-protectionism and isolationism are neither useful nor viable in the narrow national economies of the Third World. We understood this at the level of our three states, and after 6 years of its existence our community is making progress which we have a right to celebrate. The current negotiations aimed at a genuine integration with the brotherly and friendly countries of the customs and Economic Union of Central Africa must provide our economic community with an opportunity to demonstrate its African mission and in particular its desire to create a zone of peace and prosperity in central Africa. Also, our historic, geographic, and cultural links, the similarities between our developmental problems, and our respective peoples' common interests and aspirations are a sure token of the successful achievement of the objectives which we have set. In every area of cooperation, we must at all cost uphold this community spirit in order to safeguard the future of our community. We will thus greatly deserve the great trust which our people continuously put in us.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, citizens, after this optimistic observation, I invite you to raise your glasses and take a few drops of your drinks in compliance with our authenticity and to drink to the health of their excellencies the president of the Republic of Burundi, the president of the Republic of Rwanda and his wife, the president of the CAR and his wife. May mutual understanding, cooperation and solidarity triumph among our peoples.

Long live Burundi, long live Bagaza, long live Rwanda, long live Habyarimana, long live the CAR, long live Kolingba, long live Ziare, long live the CEPGL, long live African unity!

I thank you.

Speech Opening CEPGL Conference

AB152203 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1651 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Speech by Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire at opening of the sixth ordinary session of the CEPGL on 12 February in Gbadolite]

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 15 Feb (AZAP) -- Your excellencies, presidents and dear brothers, ministers and state commissioners, Mr Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, your excellencies the ambassadors, and heads of diplomatic missions, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, citizens:

On the occasion of the sixth ordinary session of the conference of heads of state of the CEPGL, I have the joy and honor, in my capacity as current chairman, to welcome you to this farming city of Gbadolite which will host our meeting.

First of all, I would like, on behalf of my colleagues from Burundi and Rwanda, to recognize the presence among us of His Excellency General Andre Kolingba, current chairman of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, and to thank him for honoring our invitation, thus giving our conference a special meaning.

I also seize this opportunity to greet my colleagues and brothers, Their Excellencies Juvenal Habyarimana, founding president of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development and president of the Republic of Rwanda, and his pretty wife to whom I pay my most respectful tributes, and to Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, president of the National Unity and Progress Party and president of the Republic of Burundi.

My greetings also go the brotherly people of Burundi and Rwanda, with whom the Zairian people have woven long-standing solid ties of fraternity and solidarity.

Presidents and very dear friends, the safeguarding of the security of our borders and the tranquility of our people -- a priority objective which the community assigned to itself -- remained our constant concern during our term of office.

In fact, the ministers and state commissioner charged with justice in the member states met in Gisenyi in May in order to strengthen existing cooperation in the field of justice and to formulate measures to fight efficiently against a crime wave in our subregion. These measures concern, in particular, the exchange of information on fugitives, exchange of criminal records, as well as the setting up of a bureau charged with judicial cooperation at the level of the criminal investigations departments. Our ministers and state commissioners also suggested that regular annual meetings be held between the judicial authorities of the border areas in order to assess their cooperation in this field. I am convinced that these measures, which are very important for the peace and tranquility of our people, will be implemented with all the necessary vigor in order to rid the community once and for all of hooligans.

Concerning information and the press, we are happy over the issuance of CEPGL press membership cards which enable our journalists to easily have access to information within our countries. The documentary film on member states which has just been coproduced will enable our people to have information on the achievements of our states and those of the community. We have also noted with satisfaction that relations of cooperation have been initiated between the CEPGL and the PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY which is designed to become an important medium for the circulation of information at the continental level. Also, the dossier on the upgrading of Kinshasa Institute of Media Sciences and Technology to a regional institution continues to receive the attention of the community's authorities. Within the framework of cooperation between the CEPGL and UNESCO, the latter has just completed a mission aimed at identifying the problems related to regional training in communications. We will examine the recommendations of that mission.

A realistic program has just been assigned to the working group set up to take care of educational questions. We hope that this will make it possible to find appropriate solutions to the problems posed in the implementation of the cultural agreement of 31 January 1982.

Africa is going through one of the most critical times of its history. Its unity is now threatened, the functioning of its organizations halted, its credibility affected, its economy disorganized and its future jeopardized. The international community is watching us now just as it did right after our independence, waiting for the day when we will display our wisdom, our political maturity, and our collective awareness that we can assume our destiny in a responsible manner.

What we can only do is to once again make an urgent appeal to all African leaders so that through tolerance, dialogue, and respect for all our commitments -- contained notably in the charter of our continental organization -- we will each make the little step necessary for the survival of the OAU.

Concerning the CEPGL, we are convinced that, thanks to our political determination and our faith in the success and in the future of our community, we will be able to establish in central Africa a viable, dynamic, and prosperous body that will be beneficial to the peoples of our three respective countries.

Long live Burundi, long live Rwanda, long live Zaire, long live the CEPGL, long live African unity.

I declare the sixth summit conference of the CEPGL open.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADOPTS FINANCIAL BILL

AB152221 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1712 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 Feb (AZAP) -- At the end of a lengthy plenary sitting held at the National Palace and conducted by Legislative Council Chairman Citizen Nzondomyo A'dokpe Lingo, the Legislative Council adopted the financial bill. This bill, repealing Financial Law No 80/006 of 22 January 1980, defines the regulations for the preparation, presentation, and execution of the national budget as well as the powers and modalities of budget administration. It aims at effecting the financial autonomy of decentralized administrative bodies in conformity with Article 186 of Ordinance Law No 82/006 of 22 January 1982 and thus establishes a new framework in the field of public finance according to the spirit and letter of the aforementioned law.

The text establishes the following amendments:

1. The clear separation of state finances from those of decentralized bodies entailing:

-- The separation of the state budget from those of decentralized bodies which are in fact subject to the same rules governing preparation, presentation, and execution;

-- Canceling of the budgets of decentralized bodies and the supplementary state budgets even if they show a credit balance;

2. The establishment of an equalization fund to correct development imbalances between the bodies and thus translate into action the necessary national solidarity;

3. The placing of organs of decentralized adminstrative bodies under the control of the central state organs, which remains the guarantee of national unity and general interest.

This law requires that the statement of justification of the proposed budget estimates take the form of an economic and financial report describing in particular:

-- The economic and financial situation of the country or the decentralized body concerned;

-- The conditions under which the budget of the previous financial year was executed;

-- The aims of the Executive Council or of the entity and their quantifications;

-- The means of attaining these objectives and the condition of economic and financial equilibrium.

As far as current expenditure is concerned, both for the state and the decentralized administrative bodies, the law provides for two types of funds:

-- Funds for current expenditure;

-- Funds for capital expenditure.

This law strictly prohibits the transfer of funds voted for the capital expenditure of an approved project to one which has not been approved by budgetary law or decision. Furthermore, it strictly limits room for maneuver by administrators of funds who ask for fanciful transfers thus causing incorrect and unjustified budgetary estimates.

As far as budgetary powers are concerned, a new distribution has been effected because of the dual nature of the authorities of the regions, cities, zones, and collectives since they can be both authorizing agents and administrators of funds.

As the authority in charge of decentralized administrative bodies, the governors, the urban commissioners, the zone commissioners, and the heads of collectivity are authorizing officers for the budget. Consequently they cannot be administrators of funds of their decentralized administrative bodies, a task which will henceforth be performed by the deputy governors, the deputy urban commissioners, the deputy zone commissioners, and the secretaries of collectivity.

It should be noted, however, that as representatives of the central administration, they administer the funds of the central departments attached to their decentralized bodies.

The Executive Council was represented at the deliberations of the Legislative Council by Citizens Munongo Mwenda M'siri and Namwisi Ma Koy, state commissioners for territorial administration and finance and budget respectively.

With the adoption of this law, the Legislative Council covered the items on the agenda of its extraordinary session of January 1983.

The agenda contained the following items:

-- The budget bill,

-- The financial bill,

-- The establishing and amending of the 1977 law on scheduled taxes on income derived from rent,

-- The bill establishing fixed assets for the 1982 financial year.

According to Article 84 of the Constitution, the chairman of the MPR and president of the republic closes the ordinary and extraordinary sessions at the proposal of the bureau of the Legislative Council.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI TO LEAVE FOR OAU MEETING 17 FEB

AB161306 Paris AFP in French 1301 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, 16 Feb. (AFP) -- Nigerian President Shehu Shagari leaves Lagos tomorrow morning for Nairobi (Kenya) where he will participate in the meeting of the OAU's 12-nation committee, it was learned from an official source in the Nigerian capital on Wednesday. This source adds that President Shagari will return to Lagos on Friday evening.

The 12-nation committee will discuss with current OAU Chairman Mr arap Moi possibilities of holding another summit after the failure of the two attempts in Tripoli last August and November.

BENIN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN LAGOS; TALKS BEGIN

AB161248 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin Republic arrived in Lagos today on a 1-day state visit to Nigeria. President Kerekou was met at Murtala Mohammed Airport by President Shehu Shagari; the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme; and members of the Beninois diplomatic mission in Nigeria. Shortly on his arrival, the Beninois leader inspected a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the Nigerian Army. Meanwhile, President Kerekou and his host, President Shagari, have begun talks on ways of strengthening existing relations between the two nations.

POLICE USE TEARGAS ON CALABAR DEMONSTRATORS

AB171136 Lagos NAN in English 1107 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Calabar, Feb 17 (NAN) -- The police in Calabar on Tuesday used teargas to disperse civil servants who were demonstrating at the government Secretariat over nonpayment of their January salaries. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Calabar reported that the workers converged at the Secretariat in the morning, mounted road blocks, intercepted government vehicles and hurled stones at the policemen. One of the workers told NAN that the government was indifferent to their sit-down strike.

On Monday, the secretary to the Cross River government, Dr Ignatius Ukpong, told NAN that efforts were being made to secure a loan to augment the statutory allocation and internally generated funds to pay the January salaries of civil servants. He said that whereas the salary bill for January stood at 21 million naira, the state received only N15 million as statutory allocation, and generated N2 million internally, leaving a deficit of N4 million.

The state secretary of the Nigerian Civil Service Union, Bassey Ndiyo, told NAN that the union had rejected government's offer to pay January salaries in the first week of March. He said that he and some trade union leaders in the state were invited by the police in Calabar last weekend for interrogation for allegedly informing the workers that the state government received N30 million grant in the last two weeks from the Federal Government.

ANGOLA

UNITA CLAIMS 11 FEB ATTACKS LEFT 152 DEAD

NC161047 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Lisbon, Feb 16 (AFP) -- Angola's rebel UNITA movement said today its guerrillas had killed 107 government troops and 45 Cubans in ten attacks spread over seven provinces on February 11. In a communique released here the South African-backed UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said the targets included the Benguela-Cangonga railways, where two locomotives and two rail tankers were destroyed, and military convoys. In all, 33 government soldiers had been captured. A road bridge over the Luassingua River and a light aircraft belonging to the political commissioner of Bie Province had also been destroyed, the communique said.

UNITA casualties in the fighting were 17 dead and 32 wounded, the communique said.

LESOTHO

ANC'S TAMBO SENDS JONATHAN SYMPATHY MESSAGE

MB161231 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] The president of the African National Congress, ANC, of South Africa, Mr Oliver Tambo, has sent a message of sympathy to the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, on the attack on the Caltex petrol depot in Maseru on Sunday evening by South Africa.

In his message, Mr Tambo says he has received with anger news of fresh acts of banditry carried out by the Pretoria regime and its puppets, resulting in the destruction of a fuel depot in Maseru. He says this terrorist outrage against the people of Lesotho also constitutes an affront of and a challenge to the international community, which only on December 16, through the UN Security Council, called on the apartheid regime not to permit aggressive acts against Lesotho, either directly or through its proxies. The recent acts of terror against the Kingdom of Lesotho, coming so soon after Botha's arrogant letter to the secretary general of the United Nations, are a clear indication by the racists of their determination openly to flout the decision of the UN accordingly. The international community is therefore obliged to take more decisive action against the Pretoria regime in keeping the spirit of the United Nations. [sentence as heard]

Mr Tambo, recalling previous decisions of the OAU that an attack on any independent African state would be deemed to be an attack on the whole of Africa, the ANC is therefore convinced that the OAU and Africa must act together decisively to repulse Pretoria's aggression. [sentence as heard] Mr Tambo said the African National Congress pledges its complete solidarity with the government and people of Lesotho, and is certain that the just cause which the people of Lesotho uphold will triumph.

SOUTH AFRICA

LARGE ARMS-EXPLOSIVES CACHE FOUND NEAR DURBAN

MB161018 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Police have uncovered a large cache of arms and explosives in the Durban area. This has been announced in Pretoria by Security Police Chief Johan Coetzee.

He says the weapons and explosives are definitely not of South African origin. No arrests have been made and police are investigating. No further details are immediately available.

SWAZILAND

AMBASSADOR DENIES MEMBERSHIP IN OPPOSING FACTION

MB161050 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 16 Feb 83 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Dr Sishayi Nxumalo yesterday declared that he was fully behind the prime minister, Prince Mabandla. He was reacting to South African press reports which named him as one of a faction said to be against Prince Mabandla. The RAND DAILY MAIL also named the minister of justice, Dr Polycarp Dlamini, foreign minister, R.V. Dlamini and Dr George Msibi as members of a faction allegedly opposed to the prime minister.

"I don't have the faintest idea of what they are talking about. In my contact with the prime minister this afternoon, he also told me he had not the faintest idea of what the South African press is talking about," Dr Nxumalo told THE TIMES yesterday. "I can only conclude that this is a calculated move to sow seeds of mistrust among us for their own sinister motives," he declared.

Dr Nxumalo said some South African newspapers were being used to destabilise certain neighbouring states. "They are trying hard to divide Swaziland," he said. He added: "It is apparent and clear that the stability of the Swazi state is not acceptable to certain vested interests in South Africa. Dr Nxumalo said these same newspapers have been trying to promote ill-feelings between the Zulus and the Swazis on the one hand and on the other between the Swazis in the eastern Transvaal and their brothers and sisters in Swaziland. "It seems to me that the tranquility and progress being recorded by this kingdom makes these people very uneasy, taking into account the fact that they claim that blacks cannot govern themselves," Dr Nxumalo declared. He said this section of the press in South Africa was trying to divide the Swazi people and create chaos in order to justify their predictions. "It is my sincere hope and belief that Swaziland will always remain united on the path laid down by his late majesty, King Sobhuza II," he told THE TIMES.

He warned that some of the South African papers were controlled and financed by certain individuals who have always tried in vain to dominate the economy of this country. He declared: "Some of us are, therefore, clear targets and victims of these people who see our efforts in nation building as counter to their designs for the domination of the Swazis.

ZIMBABWE

SMITH ANNOUNCES MOTION ASKING MUGABE TO RESIGN

AB161636 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 16 (AFP) -- Former minority rule Prime Minister Ian Smith announced in Parliament today that he would propose a motion next week calling on the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to resign. Mr. Smith said the motion would point out that the government "no longer enjoys the support of the electorate."

The motion is a long list of Mr. Smith's grievances against the government, including "the continuing and increasing violation of human rights and freedoms, the use of the state of emergency to circumvent the declaration of rights and the Constitution, and the interference with the administration of justice."

It was met with derisive laughter from members of Mr. Mugabe's party, some of whom called out "What about your government?" during the section on human rights abuses. Mr. Mugabe's party has an absolute majority with 57 of the 100-seat Parliament.

Last December Mr. Smith's passport was confiscated and his houses searched after he criticized the government during visits to the United States and Britain.

GOVERNMENT DENIES HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS KILLED

AB161641 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, Feb. 16 (AFP) -- The Zimbabwe Government today denied allegations that several hundred civilians had been killed by the national army but admitted that a "good number" of dissident guerrillas and sympathisers had been killed. Minister of State for Defence Sydney Sekeramayi also flatly rejected claims by opposition members of Parliament that Army men had been committing atrocities against peasant civilians in southwestern Zimbabwe where the Army is working to control the problem of anti-government dissidents. He dismissed the recent reports that 500 civilians have been killed by Army men in southwestern Zimbabwe. He said that the Army had killed "a good number of dissidents and people who have collaborated with them", but said he did not have the exact number.

But a member of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's party said: "It is not only dissidents being killed, the majority have been civilians who have been the victims -- men, women and children."

The minister replied that members of Mr. Nkomo's ZAPU party "want to pretend that everyone is innocent." He added that "in a conflict situation you will get the real culprits, but probably some innocents fall victim, too."

Cases of civilians murdered by the Army in southwestern Zimbabwe have been reported since last month when the government sent in units of the Army's Fifth Brigade, nicknamed as Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's "Pretorian Guard" because it is made up almost exclusively of Shona-speaking former members of Mr Mugabe's now-disbanded guerrilla army.

The presence of the Fifth Brigade in southwestern Matabeleland has heightened ethic tensions because the region is largely inhabitied by the Ndebele-speaking people, who make up 20 per cent of the population and generally support Mr Mugabe's political rival, Mr Nkomo.

The problem of anti-government violence, amounting to more than 70 killings, robberies and kidnappings, started in the southwest almost a year ago, after Mr. Nkomo was sacked from his cabinet post and his two former guerrilla commanders were arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government. Government ministers have blamed the continuing dissident violence on the large numbers of Mr. Nkomo's former guerrillas who are now in the National Army, and informed sources report that there are plans to demobilize a few thousand of Mr. Nkomo's supporters from the Army.